

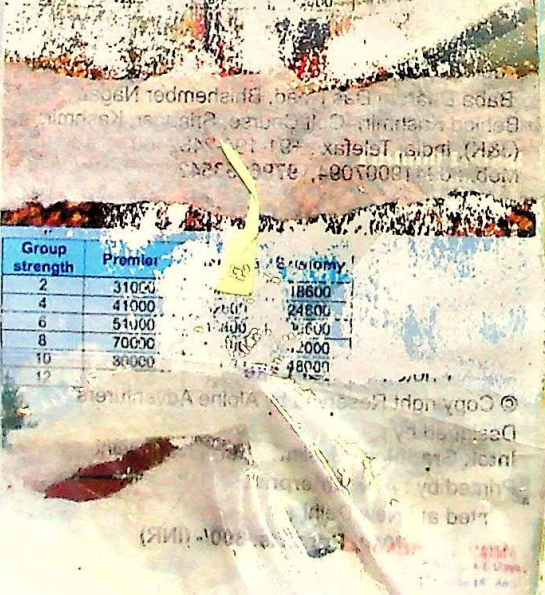


J&K TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

1-800-113-1070

Group strength	Premier	Standard	Economy
2	38500	23100	18600
4	36000	33600	24800
6	73500	58800	44100
8	96000	80000	50000
10			
12			

Group strength	Premier	Standard	Economy
2	38000	23100	18600
4	50000	33600	24800
6	69000	44100	36000
8	90000	50000	40000
10	120000		
12	120000		



Group strength	Premier	Standard	Economy
2	31000	18600	14100
4	41000	24800	18600
6	51000	36000	24800
8	70000	44100	33600
10	80000		
12			

Group strength	Premier	Standard	Economy
2	31000	18600	14100
4	41000	24800	18600
6	51000	36000	24800
8	70000	44100	33600
10	80000		
12			

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CONTENTS

Message of Director Tourism	11
Other Messages	12
About the Founder	15
Introduction	16
Other Profile	17
Stories of Past	20-33
J&K Tourist Map	34
Fact File	36
Geographical & Demographical Facts	37

Kashmir 38

Srinagar City	42
City Map	44
Places of Interest	48
Gulmarg	97
Pahalgam	103
Sonamarg	117
Yousmarg	122
Dood Pather	123
Gurez	125
Other Excursion & Lesser Known Places	128
MICE	145
Tourist Transportation	146
Golfing	146
History of Trout Hatching	147
Specialities of Kashmir	148
Famous Flowers of Kashmir	148
History of Handicrafts	149
Food	151
Chinar	152
Fruits	152
Birds & Wildlife	153
Auspicious Days & Festivals	153
Poets & Writers	155
Singers & Musician	165
Music & Dance	166
Climate	167
Trekking Essential	167
Travel Experience	169
Travels Agents	170
Suggested Itineraries	191
Important Contacts	192

Ladakh 196

Ladakhi Language	197
Leh	200
Pangong Lake	216
Tso-Moriri Lake	217
Nubra	217

Turtuk	218
Kargil	221
Suru Vallley	222
Zaskar	222
Chadar Trek	222
Festivals & Dates	226
Fairs & Festivals	227
Rivers of Ladakh	227
Religious Symbols	228
Arts & Crafts	228
Foods	233
Archery, Polo & Ice Skating	233
Mountaineering	233
River Rafting	234
Weather	234
Birds & Wildlife	235
HAHP	236
Inner Line Permits	236
Travels Agents	237
Suggested Itineraries	239
Important Contacts	240

Jammu 242

Jammu City	247
Mata Vaishno Deviji Shrine-Katra	255
Patnitop	260
Mansar	261
Doda, Badarwah	262
Kishtwar	264
Poonch	265
Jammu-Lesser Known Places	267
Arts, Crafts & Shopping	278
Fairs & Festivals	278
Dogra Dances	279
Travels Agents	279
Suggested Itineraries	280
Important Contact	281

Some Interesting Facts about J&K 283

References	285
STD Codes & Useful Website	286
J&K Tourism Offices	286
Important Contacts for Travellers-India	287
India Tourism Offices	289
Important Airports in India	290
Airline Contacts - India	291
Some Important Facts about India	292
Distance Chart	298
Some Highest Mountains of the World	299

MESSAGE

of Director Tourism

Kashmir has once more proven herself a complete destination where Mother Nature is perpetually graceful and people are equally hospitable. The numbers have been staggering that is a usual norm today at major tourist destinations across the globe. We are more concerned about the quality than quantity; the ecology needs to be protected more than increasing the numbers of tourists every year. Expanding the horizons of tourism is need of the hour, our culture, adventure and nature tourism has lot of potential in international and domestic markets. The tourists nowadays visit places to get involved with the people and activities that can invigorate their senses and stimulate the social affiliation amongst their family members and children especially.

Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are impeccable destinations that suite the perceptions and flavors of every visitor. Kashmir is full of scenic splendors, cultural heritage and adventure gamut's, new places like Gurez, Bangus, Duksum and Khag have steadily featured the outstanding natural beauty. Jammu filled with aura of gods and goddesses with newer destinations like Baderwah, Doda and Kishtwar offering value added options to tourists. Ladakh has been acclaimed as favorite adventure destination while its surrounding regions have become equally desirable. Leh, Kargil and Zaskar have become must see destinations in international tourism arena.

Tourism investors have to play a positive participation in infrastructural development and concerns of ecology, we will be at the back of such projects to support these local investors and make each destination at par with the international standards of tourism and hospitality.

The 7th edition of Discover J&K Travel Planner is worth of appreciation for bringing more talented youth of the state on its platform. The young writers, trekkers and photographers are simply outstanding and can compete at any level in the world. The effort of Avalanche Media and the travel writer Basharat Rashid is noteworthy; their continuous contribution in marketing the tourism and hospitality sector of the state and facilitating the travelers with updated information is most appreciable.

Director Tourism (Kashmir)
J&K Government
Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar.

MESSAGES

We at J&K Hoteliers Club together strongly believe in mass tourism development with care for protection of environment. Kashmir valley is famous for its natural beauty and to protect this, our organization has always put the first foot forward. Awareness of today's modern technology that can be implemented in the hotels/Resorts is a long time solution which need professional managerial inputs with participation of both private and government sector in this endeavor.

Right advice at the right time is of prime importance and this can be done by the concerned authorities while laying out the developmental plans and while issuing the registrations to the Tourism related units at various destinations.

The concerned authorities need to be in constant spree for providing knowhow, viable techniques and the economical solutions to small and large scale units in their respective areas. Mutual understanding between government and private sector is need of the hour. We stand for long term sustainable tourism development plans in our state.

Members of J&K Hoteliers Club shall always endeavor to educate the entrepreneurs and facilitate the tourist with modern technologies that govern tourism development across the globe with present day trends and needs. Our valley has lagged behind for development of infrastructure in many ways over the last twenty years. Our mission to bring Kashmir valley and its other regions to the international hospitality board, we strive to continue with equal importance on sustainable tourism and ecology concerns.



J&K Hoteliers Club appreciates the efforts of Avalanche Media and the founder of this leading Travel Planner Mr. Basharat Rashid getting talented youth of the state involved with this publication and bringing the publication to international levels.

Mushtaq Ahmed Chaya
Chairman, J&K Hoteliers Club
Srinagar, Kashmir, Jammu & Kashmir

MESSAGES

This publication has been encouraging the youth of the state to bring out their ideas and dreams into reality. Getting more writers involved with it is once again a step worth appreciations. The Travel Agents Association of India shares the similar thought of making it better by collective participation.

As a team we can certainly bring a major change in the tourism scenario of the state and get the magic of paradise on earth back to its hay days. As the state tourism endeavors to connect o international and domestic markets in different markets and equally develop the destination, so is the publication growing with the time, befitting the tastes and moods of the travelers. It truly brings tourists, trades and destinations closer, best of luck to the team Avalanche Media.

Shamim Shah

Chapter Chairman

Travel Agents Association of India, J&K Chapter



Avalanche Media and its team of writers have made tremendous effort to bring some famous and unknown destinations of the state back to its glory. Travel Agents Society of Kashmir has been supporting this cause to promote the tourism and the talented youth of the state. Together all of us have made it possible to reach out to the travelers with some amazing options and choices of tours to valley.

Our objective to get Kashmir back on lead in international tourism markets has been facilitated by the wonderful write up's, images and information in the repeated editions of the Travel Planner. TASK appreciates the efforts of Avalanche Media and we look forward to more promotional campaigns in future, the travelers have truly been benefited by this publication with its dynamic features on all three regions, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Ibrahim Siah

President

Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TASK)

MESSAGES

The first ever comprehensive Travel Planner on J&K has certainly highlighted all aspects of tourism for the state particularly the Adventure Tourism. Promoting the unknown areas and projecting the adventure as the prime activity for the travelers through this publication is appreciable. Avalanche Media and its writers are carrying on a praiseworthy work by practically visiting such areas and writing about its charms and facts that makes the travel easier for the prospective travelers to these regions.

Adventure Tour Operators Association of Kashmir is dedicated in similar manner for promoting the adventure tourism in the valley which has remained untouched for a long time. The glory of this beautiful valley should once again be relished and relived by the travelers, this time it has to be a sustainable growth with equal concern for the ecological preservations. Opening up of more areas for trekkers and mountaineers in all regions of the valley with minimal formalities can certainly bring a change in promoting adventure activities in our state .

Rauf Tramboo

President

Adventure Tour Operators Association of Kashmir (ATOAK)



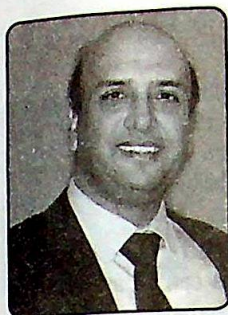
Travel Agents Association of Kashmir shares the sentiment behind the 7th edition of this publication, we have equally supported the adventure tourism promotion in the Kashmir valley. Most of us have endeavored to make a genuine effort to bring the old glory of the valley back. Both Government and private bodies need to take major steps to encourage the tour operators to promote the adventure tourism along with with other aspects of tourism like leisure, pilgrimage and MICE.

The mountain ranges in Kashmir valley has innumerable lakes, valleys, rivers, landscapes and flora & fauna that can attract the interested to travelers from all over the world for explorations. We congratulate Avalanche Media and writer Basharat Rashid for highlighting all the aspects of tourism through this Travel Planner and encouraging young writers, photographers and travelers to join this cause.

Peerzada Fayaz Ahmed

President

Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK)



About the Founder

Marketing destination was challenging when valley was gripped under dark clouds of turmoil, so was the economy at its low ebb. People

were disconnected, concise literature was dearth, traders were isolated and tourist flow was minute. Few good friends and some veterans of the industry realized this deficiency and supported the project papered in a folder in the hands of a young man who had a dream to promote his motherland by his sales & marketing expertise. Basharat Rashid has continued to bring out editions of this publication with new dimensions to promote destinations, introduce young dynamic writers, photographers, trekkers and passionate travelers from state and across the nations who share the thought of peace, participation, preservation and promotion.

Banks of river Jehlum was his childhood playground, few meters away from his ancestral house where he was born. He was raised in a village between Dal Lake and Zabarwan hills where his days of exploration began. At Tyndale Biscoe School his childhood passion for trekking and traveling led him to selection for the Indo-British Expedition in Himalayas and climb one of the highest peaks in Ladakh at an age of 17.

Basharat Rashid gained adventure tourism training from England (Lake District), through British Schools Exploring Society and Youth Exploring Society of India. He completed his Bachelors of Commerce (Honors), Post Graduated in Travel & Tourism and Masters in Tourism

Management from leading university and institutes of New Delhi (India). Promoting products in corporate markets at Sita World Travels, New Delhi was his beginning in the professional world where he worked hard to develop inbound and outbound business for company.

Basharat Rashid returned to his state worked at J&K Tourism Development Corporation where he was posted at several tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir divisions, he successfully completed many sales and business development projects in Katra, Jammu, Gulamarg, Sonamarg and other destinations. As Executive Editor he launched the first ever in-house news magazine 'JK Traveler', and launched the first online reservation system for the organizations.

His vigor, dedication and pro-activeness in tourism marketing brought him to join the world reputed Taj group of Hotels, Resorts and Palaces at Srinagar, where his aptitude to cater to national, international tourism markets and launching the brand for high end tourism in the valley has been most admired by him. A trekker, photographer and computer savvy, Basharat Rashid has contributed through his travel writing to leading newspapers, tourism related websites, hospitality sector and publication of state and national level.

Basharat Rashid now wants to highlight and promote passionate adventure loving youth of the state and travelers who trek to discover hidden secrets of nature in high altitude valleys and mountains of J&K.

Write at : basharat.rashid@gmail.com

Introduction

Life has to go on in all circumstances and so has to be the adventure, cultural and economic motion of people at any place. The magic of life remains in knowing about ones place closely, learning and aspiring from each other's knowledge and experiences. A far distance place like Turtuk in Ladakh can be as fascinating for me as downtown area of Srinagar could be for a visitor from Germany or UK. The modernity in life should never take away the ethnic values for people and places. The Tourism promotion in our state has always been associated to nature and culture, while the nature is no less in other parts of the world the diverse culture of a place lingers on with a deep impact and desire to explore more.

Exploring nature has been passion and desire of young boys living in the valley. These young adventurous boys have teamed up together to traverse the untreated path and valleys that lead to most picturesque high altitude lakes. Trekking and exploring in mountains has been carried on by generations in Kashmir, earlier the young men would accompany the foreign explorers later it was participation in joint expeditions and now the today's generation have become explorers by themselves. Google maps and geographic p system has revolutionized trekking and traveling in high altitudes ranges of the valley.

This 7th edition is dedicated to these young explorers who plan , program and popularize most fascinating valleys and high altitude lakes of the region. The adventurous activities has invigorated life to move on in high spirits even in most indented times for youth in the region. The invaders, emperors, priests and travelers to this part of the world have treasured the nature, most of them have been ancillary to this our heritage and have left behind mementos that are still relished and equally protected by today's fast moving young men whose lives are surrounded by the high tech nano gadgets. Some hidden secrets in these valleys are discovered by young lots and instantly posted on the facebook and twitter for general information of public.

Our international tourism may have come down , yet when it reaches back to its zenith the treks discovered will make thier trips more worthy. The influx of travelers that can be witnessed today at all upcoming tourist destinations is a mix of domestic and international tourists. Destinations that get visitors from within and outside the country are most fortunate

as it gives a perfect permutation for segmenting the seasons as per the market. If inflow is round the year and massive then social & environmental sustainability becomes the liability of all stakeholders at the destination.

When the timely norms are specified and implemented, tourism hazards can be avoided; the policy makers of the destinations have a pivotal role in demarking the do's and don'ts for traders and travelers alike. Sharing thought provoking, energy and environment saving awareness is imperative in upcoming destination like our state. Every individual has a right to grow and live a better life, poverty and backwardness of a people and place cannot be promoted as pure, undiscovered and untouched. Their lives need to be uplifted to a large extent that the young and old living at such place can understand the life of travelers. Tourist's visit should not become a cultural shock to either the visitors or the inhabitants'. The blending of varied behaviors and cultures can result in appropriate development of destinations and contented visitors. The cycle of the progress of people must move on along with the preservation of culture, heritage and nature at every destination.

Everyone has something to desire from the valley of Kashmir - Four seasons, mountains, lakes, fruits, flowers, culture, literature and so forth. Visitors want to see all faces of the beautiful valley. The vale and her people have similar dreams and desire to see peace prevail in every part, so that undiscovered regions, un traversed treks , unheard valleys, lakes, peaks and people share untold stories with passing travelers.

Histories have been created and written about of good and evil years that people have lived here. The excerpts from renounced travelers who's works are a treasure trove have been used to depict the cultural heritage and nature of Kashmir. These travelers are the true heros and promoters of tourism in Kashmir, without their contribution we would not have come so far. Even today travelers to this mesmerizing valley express and write about the enigmatic natural beauty of the vale. Some visitors also are equally dismayed to observe the volatility and disruption in life of common people. The affection of people of this land and visitors makes the tourism industry unique in this state. The care and concern for each other is reality of life that bonds people across the oceans which flows down to generations and develops into a real heritage.

Other Profiles



**Baba Mahtesir
(Mudasir)**

An able snowboarder, who has scaled most of high altitude lakes and valleys of Kashmir. A post graduate from Kashmir University, his belief in adventure intensified when one day an avalanche hit the Affarwat range and put in danger many skiers and snow boarders, Baba tried to rescue some of the team members yet one Australian skier Shaggy died on the snowbound slopes. Since then Baba has learned the lesson of being safe while on a trek.

He climbed Stok Kangri in Ladakh in June 2011 with a french mountaineer. He is an expert map and coordinates reader, discovers places from google map, tallies the coordinates on GPS and attempts a trek with few team members and his camera. Baba has a dream to discover unknown high altitude lakes of Kashmir & Ladakh and get people to know about these places.

His passion for mountains, lakes and technology based adventure has made him to change his course of business and get into serious full time adventure tourism promoter.

February 2014, Baba acquired one more title of completing the famous Chaddar Trek successfully in most extreme weather with help of some reliable friends and efficient porters.

A learned trekker, a promising mountaineer and a wonderful person to be with, he has found a life partner who can understand his enthusiasm for nature and mountains.

You can see his discoveries and follow him at : www.facebook.com/babamahtesir

Baba Mudassir

Cell : 09858352895

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Alpine Adventures

Adil Shah is the founder of this adventurous team of friends who together move on various thrill filled tour to high altitude lakes. A Biscoe boy, a computer engineer by profession and an enthusiast photographer Adil started such adventures from his class 4th in 1997.

He formed this group with friends in 2009 - the other co-founders in the group are, Taous zahoor, Mohib Khan, Mohammad iliyas, all from engineering background. The team invites adventure enthusiasts whenever they plan for any expedition. Alpine Adventure team has visited more than 35 Alpine lake in various districts of Kashmir valley. Some of the team members have got into limelight after getting trapped on a glacier in Kounsarnag lake during a trek in July 2013.

The team was rescued by an army chopper from broken off glacier in the Kounsarnag lake. Though getting on to the adventure tours in teams has been an old practice among young boys of the valley, after a long break of 10-15 years caused by the disturbance in valley it was getting impossible to move in the high altitude areas. Alpine Adventures has set an example for the new generation adventure lovers to explore the frozen high altitude lakes in the valley, where many unnamed and unknown lakes await to be discovered.

Adil Shah, Mohib Khan

www.facebook.com/alpineadventure

Other Profiles



Girish K (Cfc)

An engineer from Bangalore Institute of Technology working in General motors, Bangalore. Photography and trekking is his hobby. Girish mostly covers photography of on wildlife, birds, people, nature and landscapes. Participates in wildlife conservation activities during his free time. Girish has traveled many times in Kashmir valley and has a collection of fabulous images of the best locations.

His outstanding pictures of Gangabal trek with Harmukh in backdrop has been selected for cover page. Considering the re-opening of mountaineering and trekking opportunities for youth and tourists in valley, the pictures taken by Girish project the fascination of learned and talented youth of India for adventure activities in Kashmir and time to promote such areas in domestic and international markets.

Young corporates like Girish are the new genre of travelers that has changed the trend of tourism in Kashmir and motivated others to explore the adventure avenues in valley of Kashmir.

His collection of photographs can be seen at www.facebook.com/girishcfc

**Girish K.
Engineer /Photographer
Bangalore**



Basit Alvi

A young photographer , who has an eye for landscape & portrait photography. His has some of the amazing collection of images on

Kashmir covering almost every aspect of the society and nature. Basit started his passion at an early age and has become today one of the leading photographers in Kashmir. Basit along with his friends has portrayed many faces of Kashmir through mavelous photographs on blogs and social networking sites.

Basit Alvi

His collection can be seen at, www.facebook.com/basitalvi

Visit Kashmir and I Love my Kashmir

(Facebook Pages)

Two facebook community pages operated by a like minded bloggers of Kashmir of both parts in India and Pakistan. With a motive to reunite and the lost glory, promote much needed peace and stability in entire Kashmir. The images posted on this page have had immense response with Visit Kashmir having 1,46,194 likes and I Love my Kashmir having 17,593 likes plus several comments from across the globe. Some of the pictures on these pages have been used for this publication looking at the fascination and promotional aspect of Kashmir Valley tourism, bond and togetherness of the people of Paradise on earth.

www.facebook.com/visitkashmir

www.facebook.com/pages/I-love-my-kashmir

V K Sehgal

When a drop falls in the river, it becomes the river... When a deed is done well, it becomes the future.

This couplet from the poem of Mirza Ghalib had great bearing on the destiny of V.K. Sehgal who founded Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Tourism Promotion Council with a sole refrain to bring to the knowledge of the people at the helm of affairs the irritants and hindrances faced by bonafide tourism promoters, to enhance the scope of tourism promotional efforts of track one agencies. Having written a book on lesser known places and developing the concept of investor's brochure for the tourism department of the state, he also writes travel related columns for news papers and travel magazines with a special focus on spiritual tourism.

A science graduate and a keen traveler he aspires and makes a continuous effort to promote all three regions of the state as compliment-arian destinations for the tourists to explore and experience the cultural and natural marvels of the state off the beaten track. Sehgal has more than three decades of work experience in the tourism and hospitality industry in various capacities with the institutes of repute. He is a regular contributor to the travel magazines and travel planner with his updated write ups and photographs. His initial education in CMS Tyndale Biscoe School Srinagar and The Sainik School Nagrota plays an instrumental guiding force in his life.

V K Sehgal

(Tourism Advisor/Travel writer)

Founder Chairman

Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh

Tourism Promotion Council

E:indiabeyondtravelbooks@gmail.com

Faheem Jeelani

A computer engineer is presently based in Dubai, UAE. Faheem has done his schooling from Tyndale Biscoe School and B.Tech from Bangalore. He loves reading & writing, writing prose, though lately he has started to write poetic pieces as well.

Faheem Jeelani

Engineer/ Writer -Kashmir

Tsetang Ankchuk



A tough traveler and expeditionary born in Temisgam village of Leh, climbed Stok Kangri and has some outstanding trekking experience. Angchuk is a graduate from Delhi University and

has been actively promoting adventure and culture tourism in Ladakh region. Presently the General Secretary of All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA). Angchuk has been a main source and is associated with the publication for many years now.

Ashiq Rasool



A young entrepreneur and an astute sales & marketing man, has somehow got hooked to the publication and has merged his dream and passion to bring out repeated edition with

major coverage from all regions. Ashiq has over the years turned into a complete traveller and a photographer, he has covered many social and tourism events across the state. His association has made this publication more special and proved him to be an able promoter of tourism industry.

Tariq Chawdhary

A young and aspiring traveller from Badharwah who desires to get into the tourism industry and live upto his passions as well.

STORIES OF PAST

TRAVEL IN KASHMIR

by Sir Francis Edward Younghusband (Excerpts)

I have known Kashmir for twenty-one years, and ever since I have known it people have said it is getting spoilt. "It is not now what it used to be" is so often said. When the cart-road was being built every one said it would be spoilt. And now, when the construction of a railway is in contemplation, exactly the same remark is made. The impression conveyed is that the pleasures of travel in Kashmir are surely and steadily deteriorating. And this, no doubt, is true in certain aspects. Supplies are dearer. Coolies demand higher wages. The visitor disposed to solitude more frequently encounters his fellow Britisher. These are decided drawbacks, and the visitor who telegraphs to Danjhiboy for a tonga, to Nedou's for a room in the hotel, and to Cockburn's for a house-boat, and has simply to pay his fare and his hotel bill, no doubt pines for the virgin time of Kashmir travel before the rattle of the tongas or the tooting of the motor car was heard in the valley.

Yet I doubt if all was bliss in those "good old days." Certainly Moorcroft, the first Englishman to visit Kashmir, had no very comfortable time, and must often in his turn have pined for a good hotel, a clean room, and a decent dinner--and, who knows, for a game of golf? Moorcroft visited Kashmir in 1823, and first had enormous difficulty in obtaining from Ranjit Singh, the ruler of the Punjab, to whom Kashmir was then subject, leave to come to Kashmir at all. He arrived there

from the north in the autumn, and had fresh difficulty in obtaining permission to remain there for the winter. At the quarters he occupied he was "beset by crowds of people who not only filled the garden, but also came in boats." He was pursued wherever he went by inquisitive crowds, by importunate beggars, and by suspicious officials. When he wished to make short excursions from Srinagar objections were at once raised. When he was at length allowed to leave for the Lolab, officials were appointed to accompany him "to watch his proceedings and check inquisitiveness." And when he finally left Kashmir for the Punjab by the Jhelum valley he was stopped by a small semi-independent chief near Uri, who demanded Rs. 15,000 as customs duty on his caravan, and as Moorcroft refused to pay more than Rs. 500 he was compelled to return to Srinagar and reach the Punjab by another route.

These certainly were not the halcyon days of Kashmir travel. But I suppose there must have been an intermediate time between then and now when travelling in Kashmir was perfection to those who had time enough at their disposal to "march" in. In those delightful times the traveller pitched his little camp wherever he wished. Grain was ridiculously cheap. Fowls were considered dear at twopence each. Coolies were thankful enough to get any payment at all. There were no game laws

or game licences, so that the sportsman could shoot to his heart's content. The number of visitors for the year was restricted to 100, so that each had 700 or 800 square miles to himself, and there was no need of dress clothes, white shirts, or Ascot dresses.

When I first visited Kashmir in the autumn of 1887 its glory had already begun to depart, though as regards simplicity of travelling my methods were of the simplest. I had no other clothes but what I stood in, and only the under portion of these were of European origin. All my outer clothes, including my boots, were worn out long before I reached Kashmir, and I was accordingly clothed in a long Central Asian robe and high native boots, for I was at the end of a journey of nearly four thousand miles from Peking. I had crossed--and was the first European to accomplish the feat--the Mustagh Pass, 19,000 feet

high, into Baltistan; and the "Pass" being nothing else than a hard ice slope and a rocky precipice, down which I and my five servants and coolies had to let ourselves by means of turbans and waist-clothes tied together, I had been able to carry with me little even of the scanty baggage I had brought up to the other side of the Pass. I had indeed only a roll of bedding, which was thrown down the precipice, and a big kettle. I had no tent and no money! I had slept in the open from one side of the Himalayas to the other, and my funds were entirely exhausted, so that when I landed in Kashmir territory I had to borrow money from the Governor of Baltistan, Pandit Rada Kishen Kol, a very popular and respected official who is still in the Maharaja's service, and is now Chief Judge.

Simplicity of travel was, then, at least possible twenty years ago, and I managed, after crossing the Pass, to get along with only one servant who cooked, performed every function of the numerous servants we employ in India, and carried a load himself in emergency. But he was the most faithful, and my favourite of all the servants I have ever had. His name was Shukar Ali, and I must ask my reader's indulgence for a digression to describe him. I picked him up in Yarkand, in Chinese Turkestan, but he was a native of Ladak. He was the most cheery, happy-go-lucky, easy-going man, who ever proved a good servant in spite of his carelessness. Always laughing, always chaffing with the pony-men or coolies, always losing something vitally necessary, but always ready to do the hardest and most dangerous piece of work when the crucial moment arrived, he was the only Ladaki who dared to cross the Mustagh Pass with me, and but for one incident I would have a most grateful recollection of his services then. That incident I have often since reminded him of. After crossing the Pass we had to cross a very full and rapid stream flowing straight out of a glacier. Immense blocks of ice were breaking off the glacier and floating down the stream. The bottom was also partly ice and partly boulder. Shukar Ali, with his usual readiness, volunteered to carry me across this stream on his back. But in mid-stream he slipped. I was precipitated into the icy water, while Shukar Ali, in his frantic efforts to regain his own footing, unknowingly kept pressing me under water. We both eventually gained the opposite bank all right. But I had no change of clothes, and every stitch I had on was wringing wet with ice-cold water.

When, two years later, Government sent me to explore all the northern frontier of Kashmir from Ladak and the Karakoram Pass to the Pamirs and Hunza, I again sought out Shukar Ali; and yet a third time, when I was sent on a political mission to Chinese Turkestan and the Pamirs in 1890-91. On each of these occasions he rendered unfailing service, and once both he and I were nearly drowned in an avalanche. We had been hewing our way

up the steep slopes of an ice pass in a snowstorm, when suddenly out of the snow-clouds above us we heard a roar like thunder approaching nearer and nearer. We could not run if we would, for we were on an ice slope. We could only await our doom, for we knew it was an avalanche. But with a mighty rush it crashed past a few paces in front of us, and we were safe.

SOCIAL LIFE

Valley of Kashmir - Sir Walter Lawrence (Excerpts)

The Kashmiri village life is beautiful in spite of itself, out through the luxuriant foliage peeps the cultivators cottage, with its tumble down thatched gable roof. Each cottage has a garden plot well stocked with vegetables. Close to the cottage is the wooden granary, an erection like a huge sentry-box, in which the grain is stored and from which it is taken out by a hole at the bottom. In the courtyard by the cottage the women are busy pounding the rice or maize and the cotton spinning wheel is for the time laid aside. The houses are made of un-burnt brick set in wooden frames and of timber of cedar, pine and fir, the roofs being pointed to throw off snow. In the loft formed by the roof wood and grass are stored and the ends are left open to allow these to be thrown out when fire occurs. The thatch is usually of straw. Rice straw is considered to be the best material, but in the vicinity of lakes reeds are used. Near the forests the roofs are made of wooden shingles and the houses are real log huts, the walls being formed of whole logs laid one upon another, like the cottages of the Russian peasantry.

Outside the first floor of the house is a balcony approached by a ladder, where the Kashmiri delights to sit in the summer weather. Later the balcony and the loft are festooned with ropes of dry turnips, apples, maize-cobs for seed, vegetable marrows and chilies, for winter use. Sometimes in the village one finds the roofs of the larger houses and of the shrines made of birch bark with a layer of earth above it. This forms an excellent roof and in the spring the housetops are covered with iris, purple, white and yellow, with the red Turks head and the crown imperial lilies. In the city nearly all the houses of well to do people are roofed with the birch bark and earth, so that looking down on Srinagar from the Hari Parbat hill one sees miles of verdant roofing. In some of the larger and better houses there are pretty windows of lattice work, open in the summer and closed by paper in the winter. Some houses have fire places, but as a rule the villagers depend for warmth in winter on their sheep skin. For lighting purpose they use oil, and in the higher villages torches of pine wood are employed.

The clothes of the villagers are simple and extremely mean in appearance and there is very little difference between the garb of a man and a woman, as they both wear the effeminate gown. Heavy and full it buttons at the neck and falls to the feet. Weight is given to the of the gown by a deep hem and sometimes this is artificially weighted in order to exclude the air and to keep in heat of the kangar when a man sits down on the ground .Underneath the gown the man wears drawers .In the winter these garments are made of wool, in the summer of cotton ,either manufactured at home or imported from the Punjab .The ordinary head dress of the Kashmiri cultivator when he is at work is a cotton skull cap, but on state occasions he dons a white pagri.

The fashionable Kashmiri likes to wear his pagri rather on the back of his head and displays a large amount of forehead. The selves of the gown of the Musalman cultivators are wide and lose and it is a sign of respectability to wear the cuffs turned back. Leather shoes are worn by the well to do and by most people on holidays, but the ordinary covering of the foot in Kashmir is the leather or straw sandal , known as tsapli and pulahru, and the wooden for wet weather (khrav).

Every Kashmiri can make his own pulahru from a wisp of rice straw. The Panditanis wear dresses of dark maroon known as krimsi , and blue and fasten a girdle of white cloth around their waists .Their head dress is a kind of veil, which falls over the back of the head ,and they and all Kashmiri women wear their hair in a

peculiar arrangement of many plaits ,in which black wool or silk is inter woven. Up to marriage these plaits are separate but after marriage they are gathered together and fastened with a heavy tassell.

The Kashmiri consider that all kinds of grain are either hot or cold and are somewhat particular as to the way in which the various grains, vegetables and fruit should be mixed. If one looks to the purely material condition of the villagers I should say that the Kashmiri peasant is in every respect better off than his fellows in India. He has ample food, sufficient clothing, a comfortable house, and abundance of fuel and he obtains these without much effort.

I would add that the Kashmiri possess individuality and national characters which will cling to them were ever they go. I have seen men who have returned to Kashmir, whose ancestors left the country two or three generation ago. Their dress was changed and their manners had changed, yet they retained unmistakable signs of a Kashmir origin, and their ways of thought and off speech showed their decent.

The Kashmiri are fond of their own country, its food, water and its dress and though oppression has driven them out of the valley many have come back and all are loath to leave. The Kashmiri proverb, 'tsari chu kand thari peth karar', which means that a bird is content when it is on its own branch (even thorned branch).

VENICE OF EAST

by T. R Swinburne (Excerpts)

Yesterday, we went on a shopping excursion down the river, our "hansom" being a long narrow sort of canoe, propelled and dexterously steered by four or five paddlers, whose mode of digging along by means of their heart-shaped blades reminded me not a little of the Kroo boys paddling a fish-canoe off Elmina on the Gold Coast.

We embarked close to the back of the hotel, at the Chenar Bagh, and went gaily enough down the strong current of what we took to be an affluent of the Jhelum. As a matter of fact, the European quarter forms an island, low and perfectly flat, the banks of which are heaped into a high dyke or "bund," washed on one side (the south) by the main river, and on the other by the Sunt-i-kul Canal, down which we have been paddling.

The river life was most fascinating crowds of heavy doungeas lay moored along the banks their long, low bodies covered in by matting, and their extremities sloping up into long peaked platforms for the crew. These many of them women and children were all clothed in neutral-tinted gowns, the only bit of colour being an occasional note of red or white in the puggaree of the men or skull-cap of the children.

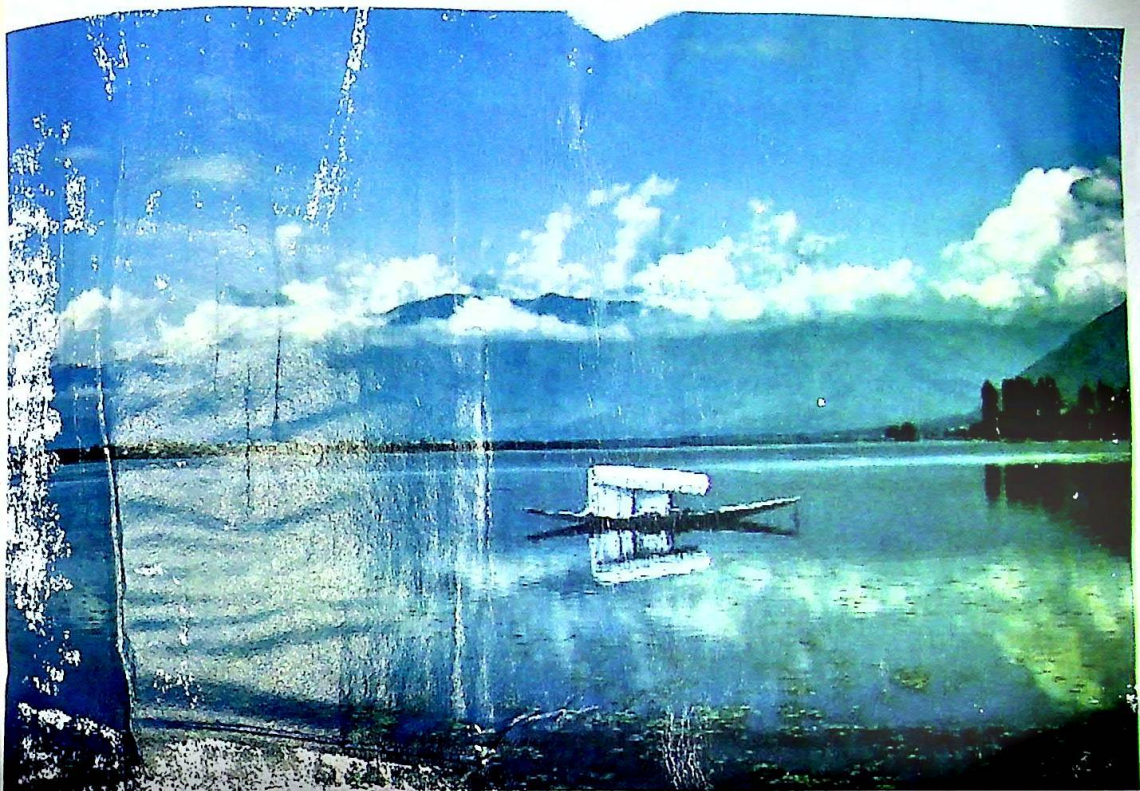
The married women invariably wore whity-brown veils over the head. The wooden houses that lined the banks were

all in the general low scheme of colour, but a peculiar charm was added by the roofs covered in thick, green turf.

Srinagar has been called the "**Venice of the East**," and, inasmuch as waterways form the main thoroughfares in both, there is a certain resemblance. Shikaras (the Kashmiri canoes) are firstcousins, to gondolas rather poor relations perhaps; both are dingy and clumsy in appearance, and both are managed with an extraordinary dexterity by their navigators.

Both cities are "smelly," though Venice, even to its worst, stands many degrees above the incredible filth of Srinagar. Finally both cities are within sight of snowy ranges; although it seems hardly fair to place in comparison the majestic range that overhangs Srinagar and the somewhat distant and sketchy view of the Alps as seen from Venice. Here, I think, all resemblance ceases.

The charm of Venice lies in its architecture, its art treasures, its historical memories, and its interesting people. Srinagar has no architecture in particular, being but a picturesque chaos of tumble-down wooden shanties. It has no history worth speaking of, and its inhabitants are and apparently have always been a poor lot.



Chours of Dal Lake

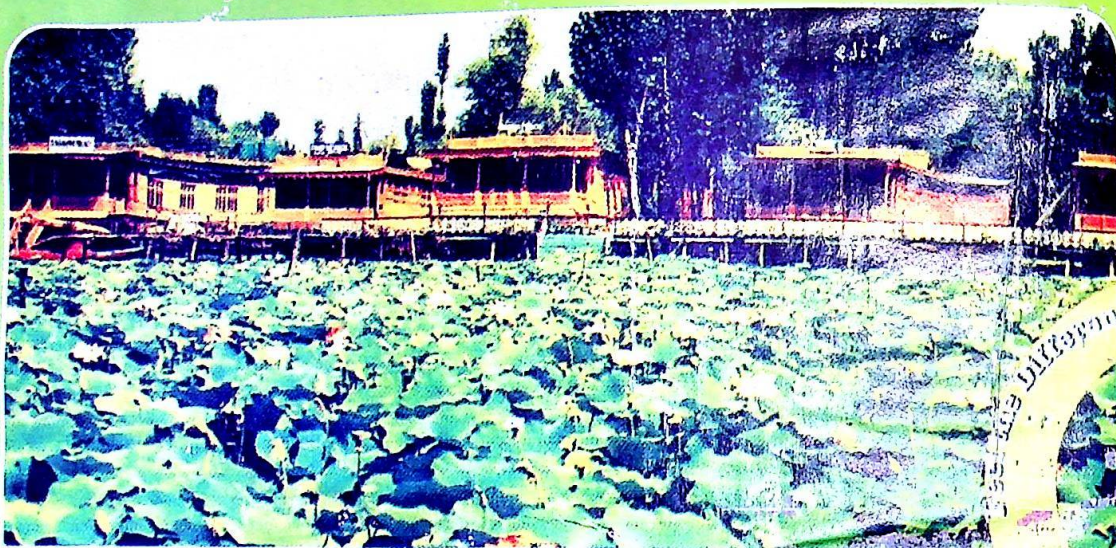
By Basil Alvi



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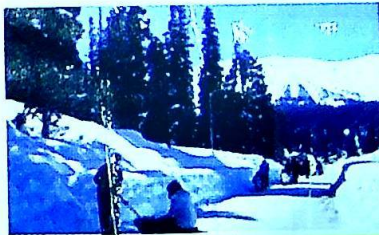
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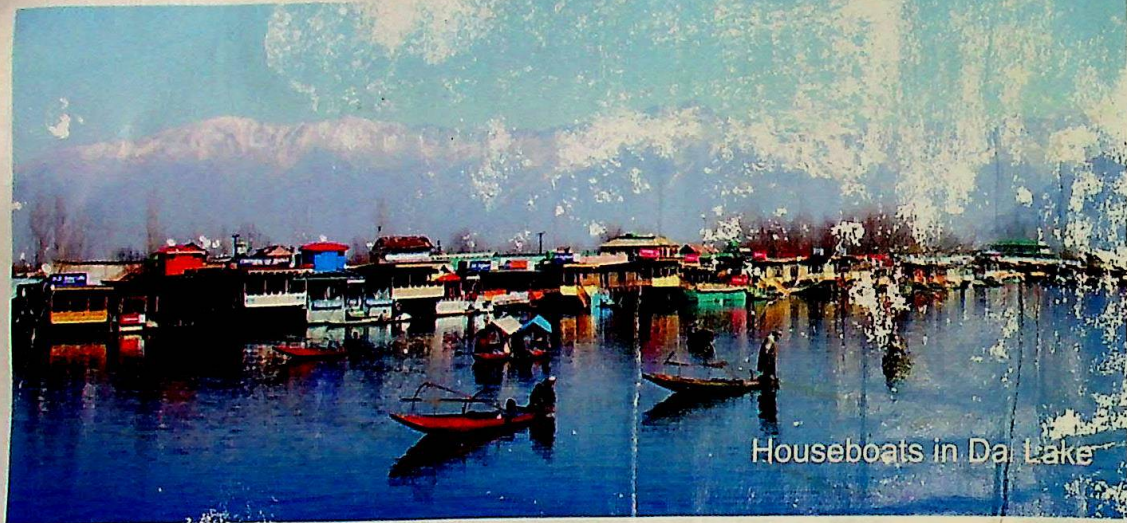
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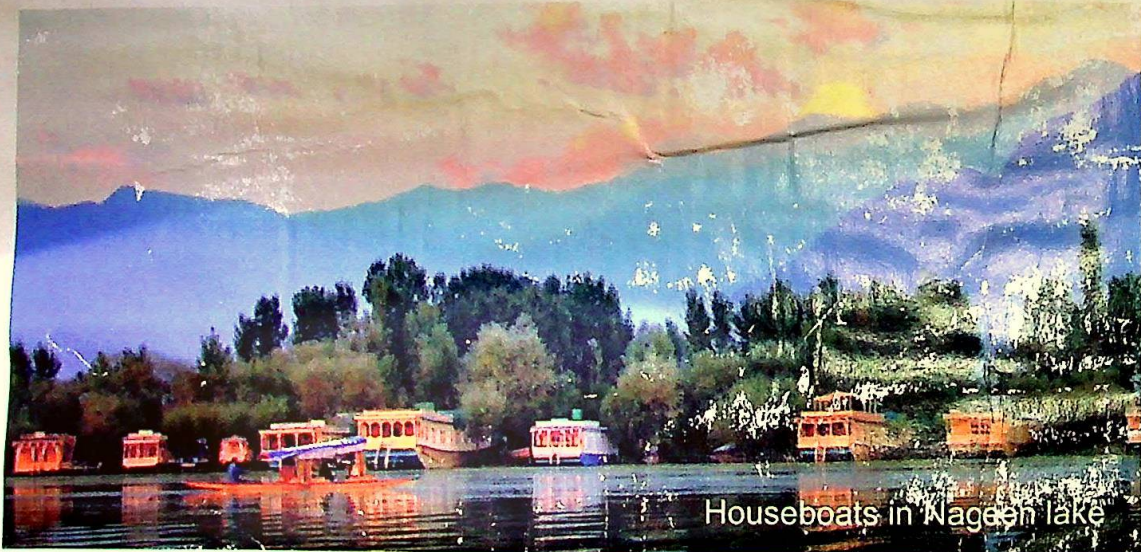
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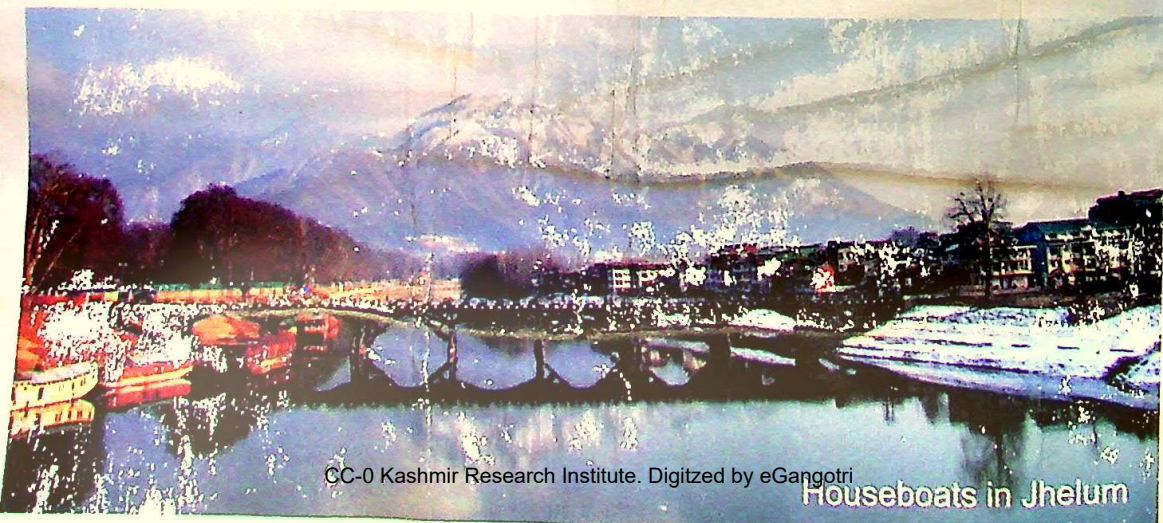
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Houseboats in Dal Lake



Houseboats in Nageen lake



Houseboats in Jhelum

KASHMIR AND SWITZERLAND

by Sir Francis Edward Young Husband

The country with which one is most apt to compare it is, naturally, Switzerland. And Switzerland, indeed, has many charms, and a combination of lake and mountain in which, I think, it excels Kashmir. But it is built on a smaller scale. There is not the same wide sweep of snow-clad mountains.

There is no place where one can see a complete circle of snowy mountains surrounding a plain of anything like the length and breadth of the Kashmir valley, for the main valleys of Switzerland are like the side valleys of Kashmir. And above everything there is not behind Switzerland what there is at the back of Kashmir, and visible in glimpses from the southern side, a region of stupendous mountains surpassing every other in the world.

By these Himalayan regions only, by the mountains of Baltistan and Hunza, and by those unequalled mountains seen from Darjiling, can Kashmir be excelled. There indeed one sees mountain majesty and sublimity at their very zenith. And with such as these Kashmir cannot compare. But it possesses a combination of quiet loveliness and mountain grandeur which has a fascination all its own. If one could imagine the smiling, peaceful Thames

valley with a girdle of snowy mountains, he would have the nearest approach to a true idea of Kashmir it is possible to give. He would not expect the stern ruggedness and almost overwhelming majesty of the mighty mountains beyond Kashmir. But he would have the tranquil beauty and genial loveliness which to some are even preferable.

Of this, my collaborator's pictures will give a true and vivid impression, though every artist allows that it is impossible to give in a single picture the broad general effect of those wide-flung landscapes and of the snowy ranges stretching from one horizon to another. For that impression and for the varying effect of spring and autumn, of winter and summer, dependence must be on the pen alone. Which is the most lovely season each must decide for himself. In the spring we think the spring the most exquisitely beautiful.

In the autumn we say that nothing could exceed the charm of the brilliant autumn tints. But as it is in the spring that most visitors first arrive, and as it is the real beginning of the year, there will be some advantage in commencing in that season the delicate task of describing Kashmir.

[illegible]

Jammu & Kashmir



Fact File

About J&K State

J&K State:

Latitude: 32°.17" -37°.6" North
Longitudes: 73°.26"-80°.30" East.
Length: 640 km north to south
Breadth: 480 km east to west.
Altitude varies from 10000 ft to 28500 ft.
Total Area ; 222,236 sq km

Capital:

Summer : (May to Oct) Srinagar
Winter : (Nov. to Apr) Jammu

Total Population; 12,458,926.
(Census 2011) 1.04% of India
Rural : 72.62% , Urban; 27.38%

Literacy : 67.16 %

Kashmir :

Latitude 34°.10" N Longitude: 76°.49" E
Altitude : 1500 m to 6000m

Ladakh :

Latitude: 32°.43" N, Longitude: 74°E,
Altitude: 2750—7672 m

Jammu :

Latitude: 32.43 N, Longitude: 74°.52" E,
Avg Altitude: 305 m,

Major Religions : Muslims 66.97%,
Hindus 29.63%, Sikhs 2.03%, Buddhist
Christian, Jain & others 1.36 %.

Total Forest Cover (1991 statistics):

18590 sq km (Nearly 92% of total forest
area is under conifers, Deodar occupies
5.34%)

Fauna: Over 4000 species belonging to
1500 genera.

Total District : 22

Jammu Region

1. Kathua District
2. Jammu District
3. Samba District
4. Udhampur District
5. Reasi District
6. Rajouri District
7. Poonch District
8. Doda District
9. Ramban District
10. Kishtwar District

Kashmir Valley Region

1. Anantnag District
2. Kulgam District
3. Pulwama District
4. Shopian District
5. Budgam District
6. Srinagar District
7. Ganderbal District
8. Bandipora District
9. Baramulla District
10. Kupwara District

Ladakh Region

1. Kargil District
2. Leh District

Geographical and Demographical Facts

Name	Headquarters	Area (km2)	Population 2001 Census	Population 2011 Census
Kathua District	Kathua	2,651	550,084	615,711
Jammu District	Jammu	3,097	1,343,756	1,526,406
Samba District	Samba		245,016	318,611
Udhampur District	Udhampur	4,550	475,068	555,357
Reasi District	Reasi		268,441	314,714
Rajouri District	Rajouri	2,630	483,284	619,266
Poonch District	Poonch	1,674	372,613	476,820
Doda District	Doda	11,691	320,256	409,576
Ramban District	Ramban		180,830	283,313
Kishtwar District	Kishtwar		190,843	231,037
Jammu Division	Jammu	26,293	4,430,191	5,350,811
Anantnag District	Anantnag	3,984	734,549	1,069,749
Kulgam District	Kulgam		437,885	423,181
Pulwama District	Pulwama	1,398	441,275	570,060
Shopian District	Shopian		211,332	265,960
Budgam District	Budgam	1,371	629,309	755,331
Srinagar District	Srinagar	2,228	990,548	1,250,173
Ganderbal District	Ganderbal		211,899	297,003
Bandipora District	Bandipora		316,436	385,099
Baramulla District	Baramulla	4,588	853,344	1,015,503
Kupwara District	Kupwara	2,379	650,393	875,564
Kashmir Valley Division	Srinagar	15,948	5,476,970	6,907,622
Kargil District	Kargil	14,036	119,307	143,388
Leh District	Leh	45,110	117,232	147,104
Ladakh Division	Leh	59,146	236,539	290,492
TOTAL		101,387	10,143,700	12,548,925

Kashmir

Average Altitude : 1590m

One of the first travelers to Kashmir 'Bernier writes about valley in the year 1665, that; "In truth, the kingdom surpasses in beauty all that my warmest imagination had anticipated." This impression is not universally felt, for one of the very latest writers on Kashmir speaks of it as overrated. And fortunate it is that in this limited earth of ours we every one of us do not think alike. They have read in books, and they have heard from friends, glowing descriptions of the country; but the reality has, with most, exceeded the expectation. Some have found the expenses of living and the discomforts of travel greater than they had expected. And some have arrived when it was raining or cloudy, and the snows were not visible; or in the middle of summer when the valley is hazy and steamy. But when the clouds have rolled by, the haze lifted, and a real Kashmir spring or autumn day disclosed itself, the heart of the hardest visitor melteth and he becomes as Bernier".

The word Kashmir is said to imply 'the land desiccated from water' where Ka means water and shimeera means desiccate. It is believed that this country was split in to various little kingdoms known as Kutraj, which indicates that the vast areas were spread towards north and south as part of the vale' of Kashmir. The Greeks called it 'Kasperia' and Chinese traveler Huin Stang entitled it "Kash Mi Lo', natively called 'Kasheer' and most popular as Kashmir across the nations. Mughal emperors called Kashmir 'Baghe-khaas' a special garden. Emperor Jehangir on his death bed was asked whether he wanted anything, his reply was... "only Kashmir".

According to Hindu Mythology, in a huge lake called Satisar, the pleasure lake of

goddess Parwati a water demon 'Jalodbhava' destroyed all life on shores. The Saint by the name of Kashyap Rishi, supposed to be grandson of Brahma was distressed to see the havoc and set on to fight the demon, aided by Hindu Triad, Brahma, Visnu and Shiva, he drained the water off the lake near Baramula with his prayers & devotion to the lord, the demon was overpowered and entrenched himself under ground, goddess Parvati dropped the mountain 'Hari Parbat' over demon crushed him to death.

Land appeared after the water was drained which was called Kashyap-Mar 'land of Kashyap'. Yet other theory, denotes that word Kashmir has come from the settlement of race of men called 'Kash', Semitic tribe from Kashan and Kashgar, provinces in central Asia. It is evident from the history that name Kashmir is ancient as the earliest Chinese reference dated 541 AC refers valley as 'Ku-shih-mi'.

Valley of Kashmir has been a prominent place of cultural exchanges during the early times being a part of the famous caravan route (Silk Route) of the travelers to China, Central Asia and Tibet. For this reason it has been called as "Jewel of the East". Famous historian P N K Bamzai writes "To a Kashmiri the mountain peaks surrounding the valley have always beacons to distant lands, mysterious and romantic. For, it was over the high passes that caravans laden with gold and silver, carpets and silk, tea and shawl-wool, traveled to and fro. The streets of Srinagar thronged with venerable Khawjas and pious Lamas from Central Asia and Tibet and this in turn drew the Kah-che (Kashmiris) to the bazaars of Yarkand, Kashgar and Lahsa".

It is believed that Kashmir came to international arena through the Portuguese during their religious motives, Jerome Xavier a Naverese of high birth is supposed to be one of the first European to have crossed over to the valley, he appeared at the court of Akbar and accompanied the emperor to Kashmir.

People of Kashmir

Robust and hardworking with acumen to lead almost in every field, education, business, cultivation, handicrafts and now also in IT industry. While men are most hospitable, chivalrous and good looking, women are fair complexioned, agile and conscientious. George Foster (1783) says that "women of Kashmir would be called brunettes in the south of France or Spain". Bernier wrote, "Kashmiri's are celebrated for wit, and considered much more intelligent and ingenious than the Indians. In poetry and science they are not inferior to Persians. They are also very active and industrious." The traveler G.T Vigne calls Kashmiri 'the Neapolitan of the east'. People in the valley speak mostly a common Kashmir language in different dialects, Gojri in higher reaches, Urdu by most of population with atypical Kashmiri accent and English is spoken with ease by young and old educated ones while all the people in tourism trade are quite familiar with it.

William Moorcroft wrote in 1824 AC "The natives of Kashmir have been always considered as among the most lively and ingenious people of Asia, and deservedly so. With a liberal and wise government they might assume an equally high scale as a moral and intellectual people".

Kashmir-A Seat of Learning

Kashmir has been a famous seat of learning from earliest times. Scholar from the Indian subcontinent where not

considered having accomplished their studies unless he learned from one of the universities or Ashrams of Kashmir, the 'land of Sarda'. Hien Tsang writes: The people of Kashmir love learning and are well cultured. Since centuries learning has been held in great respect in Kashmir". It is said that the teachers and missionaries after completing their studies in Kashmir traveled across the high mountains to spread the light of knowledge in far off plains and desolate deserts.

History of Kashmir

Kalhana's 'Rajtarangini' written in 1148 AD and continued by Pandit Jonarja to 15th Century describes Gonanda I on the throne of Kashmir about 2448 BC. King Ashoka conquered Kashmir in 250 BC and made Srinagar the capital of his empire. 1st century AD, Kushan dynasty. Emperor Kanishka organised the 3rd great council of Buddhists at Harwan. 8th century-Karakota dynasty, the great ruler Lalitaditya Muktapida is mentioned as ruler during the period 697-738 AD, this period is called the 'Golden Age of Kashmir'. 9th century - Utpal dynasty that produced the great ruler Avantivarma during whose reign Avantipur was the capital (855-883 AD). 10th century-Lohara dynasty. Queen Didda ruled Kashmir. 11th century- rule of King Harsha, a poet and lover of art & music. 12th century-rule of King Jaisimha. 1149 AD, there was civil war, plundering, fighting and sporadic cholera and diseases in the country. 1305 during the reign of Raja Simha Deva country was in disarray the Tartars invaded Kashmir, devastating the city. Dulchu a scion of Halaku Khan, the grandson of Chingez Khan led his army into valley from Turkestan. King Simha Deva fled to Kishtwar. After eight months Dulchu during an attempt to come out of the valley which was scarce of provisions was

perished in snow storm along with his army. The escaped Kings commander Ramchand then established the empire with assistance of two foreigners Shah Mirza from Swat and Rainchan from Tibet. Rainchan broke out with Ramchand and got him killed with help of mercenaries from Tibet.

Advent of Islam: Rainchana, prince from Tibet married Kuta Rani daughter of Ramchand and proclaimed rule in 1323 AD. The preaching's of a saint Bulbul Shah (Sayyid Bilal Shah) influenced Rainchan to convert to Islam and take the name of Sadur-ud-Din (popular as Rainchan Shah). He built a mosque and shrine for Bulbul Shah now famous as Bulbul Lanker in old city. When Rainchan Shah the first Muslim king died, Udayanadeva, Simha Deva's brother married Kuta Rani. Udayanadeva fled when Urwan a Turk invaded Kashmir, the queen sent forces under the command of Shah Mirza who defeated invaders, Udayanadeva returned to valley and later died. Kuta Rani wielded power for only fifty days as Shah Mirza or Shah Mir declared himself king in 1343 AD and renamed himself as Shamas-ud-Din, the Sultan of Kashmir laid the foundation of Muslim rule in valley. Syed Ali Hamdani RA (Shah Hamdan) arrives from Persia during the rule of Sultan Qutab-ud-din (AD 1395). The sultan was succeeded by his son Sultan Sikandar (1393-1417) nicknamed as Butshikan 'idol breaker'. Sikanders son Shahi Khan or Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin (AD 1421-474), an exceptionally peaceful ruler came to throne in 1417 AD. Popular as Budshah 'The Great King', his fifty two years of rule are said to be the happiest and most developing for Muslims and Hindus equally in Kashmir. He is said to be buried at 'Budshah Tomb' in the vicinity of Zaina Kadal. Budshah's son Haider shah in 1469 AD took over the reign; his frivolous behavior gave Chaks from Dard an opportunity to take the charge of valley.

Mughals, Sikhs & British: 16th century, 'Chaks' gained power. Yousuf Khan, commonly known as 'Yousuf Shahi Chak', ruled in AD 1580. He fell in love and married a peasant woman, Haba Khatoun, the famous poetess of Kashmir. His son Yakub Khan took over the reins in AD 1582. Emperor Akbar's forces conquered Kashmir in AD 1586. During the reign of Mughals, Kashmir witnessed construction of splendid gardens, public works, better wages and basic revenue settlements. Akbar visited valley thrice while his successor Jehangir made frequent visits to valley along with his queen Noor Jehan. The passionate couple made remarkable contribution for changing the physical and social structure of Kashmir. The Mughal rule lasted for 166 years during which there were about 777 gardens, chinar trees were planted in every part of valley, sale of roses and other flowers generated revenue every year. The Mughal emperors deputed their governors to control the state of affairs in Kashmir, who played a constructive role. Mughal rule was fairly justified and full of ordinance.

1756 to 1818 Kashmir was under the brutal rule of Afghans with few constructive works of making Amirakadal bridge and Shergheri palace. In 1819 AD Ranjit Singh's forces from Punjab under command of Gulab Singh and Diwan Chand invaded Kashmir. Sikh rule is considered slightly better than the Afghans. During the Sikh rule introduction agricultural advances, proper weights and appointment of some Muslim governors was witnessed.

Sikhs ceded Kashmir and other territories to British government (East India Company) in lieu of the indemnity decided in Treaty of Lahore, 09 March, 1846. On 16th March 1846, Maharaja Gulab Singh secured the sovereignty of Kashmir and other territories on eastward of Indus and westward of Ravi from the British under

the Treaty of Amritsar by paying British Govt sum of 75 lakh (seven and half million) of rupees (Nanakshahi). 50 lacs to be paid on ratification of the treaty and 25 lacs on or before the 1st of October 1846 and acknowledge the supremacy of British Govt with annual token of one horse, twelve perfect shawl goats of approved breed (six male and six female) and three pairs of Kashmiri shawls. The treaty also demanded Maharaja and his heirs to join his military force with the British troops within and adjoining the territory whenever asked. With this treaty Maharaja was able to form the state of Jammu and Kashmir and become its first Maharaja. Imam-ud-Din a governor installed by Sikhs fought against Gulab Singh for ceding Kashmir, however he surrendered when British troops moved in. In 1857 after the death of Gulab Singh, his son Ranjit Singh became Maharaja, who further annexed Hunza, Gilgit and Nagar to the Kingdom of Jammu & Kashmir. Ranbir Singh's grandson Maharaja Hari Singh ascended the throne in 1925. In 1947 India attained independence from British yolk, the partition of the country was witnessed. Maharaja Hari Singh opted to remain independent and the people of all religions lived amicably in the Kingdom. However atrocities and poverty of the people had already caused revolutionary upheavals against the rulers and the intrusion of warriors from partitioned region of India added fuel to the fire that led to the political destabilization and chaos in the region. In 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh under duress sought the military aid from India and annexed kingdom of Jammu & Kashmir with the Indian Dominion.

Getting there

By Air

Shiekh-ul-Allam International Airport (Srinagar): Direct Dubai flights have paved way for more air networks to be in

the offing and developed the airport to International standards. Domestic daily flights from New Delhi direct and via Jammu are operated by all major carriers - Indian Airlines, Jet Airways, Air Sahara, Jetlite, Kingfisher, Spice Jet, Deccan, Goair and Indigo. The scenic view of Pirpanjal mountain range from the aircraft window, while crossing over Banihal pass mesmerize the travelers. The breathtaking view of paddy fields and mountains in Kashmir valley captivates everyone to have such view more than once in lifetime. Taxi can be hired from the airport taxi stand/Help desk at reasonable charges for 14 km journey from airport to the city. The tourist office at the arrival lounge provides assistance to the tourists for onward journey. Travelling from the airport one can observe the development and modern living standards of the people in civil lines. Approaching towards the inner city the lively schedule of the people and the rapid growth of traffic, hotels, restaurants, cake shops, cafes and shopping malls can be noticed.

By Rail: Special & regular holiday trains from all major cities of India terminate at Jammu Tawi Railway station. Deluxe Coaches & tourist taxis at railway station and the city centre are available daily for Srinagar. Some of the special trains operate upto Udhampur. Indian railways men are at work on the broad gauge railway line of 148km to connect Katra with Qazigund in Kashmir valley which saves enormous time and energy of travelers and reach to valley in most economical and relaxed way.

Jammu-Srinagar

By Road

Tempo Travelers, semi-deluxe mini coaches, Sumo, Scorpio, Qualis, Tavera and other luxury vehicles operate from Jammu Railway Station, Tourist Reception Centre (7 km from Station) and General Bus stand (6km from station)

area in Jammu every morning for Srinagar. The rates vary from Rs. 250 to Rs.650 per person as per the type of vehicle. During summer the service is available till evenings from some taxi stands as the Jawahar tunnel remains open round the clock. SRTC coaches start from railway station and Tourist reception centre every morning. While in winter the late morning service should be avoided as the sudden night halt on highway could be terrible. The stopover for tea /snack on the highway while traveling from Jammu to Srinagar are Jajharkotli, Tikkri and Kud. The lunch time stopovers are usually Ramban and Banihal. The meandering hilly road from Amar Mahal (Jammu) to Qazigund in Kashmir crosses over high and low lying areas and offers full adventure which can be quite tiring at times being a single approach road into the valley.

For Katra to Srinagar, a taxi can be hired from taxi stand or book a seat in JKSRTC coach (operational during summer) near Katra Bus stand. From Katra a 15km shortcut route commonly known as Kashmir road touches the NH1 highway at Tikkri. The highway has huge columns of traffic both heavy & light and gets blocked due to landslides during the winter season quite frequently. Travel sickness is common on this 9 to 12 hours journey of 294km Jammu to Srinagar.

Distances:

Jammu to;	
Udhampur	= 62
Patnitop	= 110
Batote	= 120
Ramban	= 149
Banihal	= 185
Qazigund	= 222
Khannabal	= 234
Srinagar	= 294
New Delhi	= 643 (402 mile)

Tourist Arrivals in Kashmir valley:

Year	Domestic	International	Total
1951	9300	1250	10580
1965	35070	7043	43013
1975	162675	22214	184890
1985	465599	38015	503614
1995	375	8198	8520
2000	66732	7575	111912
2005	585070	19068	605038
2010			800000
2011			1100000
2012			1300000
2013			Over 1 Million

Srinagar City (Avg. Alt.: 1730m)

Sri means Lakshmi or wealth and nagar a city. The summer capital of J&K state perched at an altitude of 1515 meters was described in Persian chronicles as Shehr-e-Kashmir or 'City of Kashmir'. Srinagari was founded by King Ashoka in 3rd century BC near Panderethan about 8 km from the present city. Srinagari remained capital till mid 6th century when the new city of Pravarapura was founded by Parvarasana II in AD 630 near Hari Parbat, which is the present city. The choice of Parvarasana II is considered impeccable as the present Srinagar city is supposed to be almost equidistant from Jammu, Rawalpindi, Leh and Gilgit through the old routes. Srinagar has both medieval charm and a touch of modernity; surrounded by awesome mountains, river Jehlum meandering through the city indicates its earliest civilization. Months could pass sightseeing at different locations and centres, be it historical or religious places, gardens or lakes, craft bazaars or stone carving units, tombs of poets or saints, wildlife sanctuaries and trout hatcheries- it's a destination that always remains a discovery for a visitors. Connected by more than a dozen bridges over river Jehlum, a major portion of the old city bears its name after the bridges, Zaina Kadal, the first wooden bridge, was constructed by emperor Zain-ul-Abidin. Bustling city with serene outskirts which

catered leisure & adventure tourists is now being eyed by the corporate travellers for its perfect blend of business opportunities and abounding nature. While the uptown areas offer the modernised facets of the city, the downtown area presents more traditional and cultural features of the people.

Downtown: Old Srinagar city has been the commercial hub of the valley from early times, the famous Maharaj Ganj Bazar (5km) on the banks of river Jhelum in the down town area stands witness to it. The important wholesale and retail markets in the areas like Habbakadal, Bohrikadal, Fatehkadal, Khanyar, Nawakadal, Nawhatta and Alamghari bazar are charming old bazaars which are connected by kadals (bridges) over Jhelum. Most of the handicraft manufacturing is carried out in the down town area at the residential complexes and factories. Large agricultural produce is supplied from places nearer to the Dal & Nigeen lake in interior parts of the city. The downtown area has the most incredible monuments, shrines and heritage sites which have been the major attraction for the tourists interested in historical background of the society.

Uptown : The prime tourist area Boulevard ends at Dalgate where after the bustling city life is encountered right from the bridge where Maulana Azad road (M A Road) starts off; passing behind the Lal-Chowk the road leads via Budsha Bridge to the Jehangir chowk (2km). The vibrant Partap park separating M A road and Residency road on its right-side has Central Telegraph office and the Gowkadal area which is the hub of transport spare parts & repair shops. To the left of the park are the teeming Regal chowk and Abiguzar shopping areas. Ghanta Ghar (clock tower) in the middle of prime commercial centre, 'Lalchowk', city centre where we count the milestone to be 'zero' is considered the heart of the city.

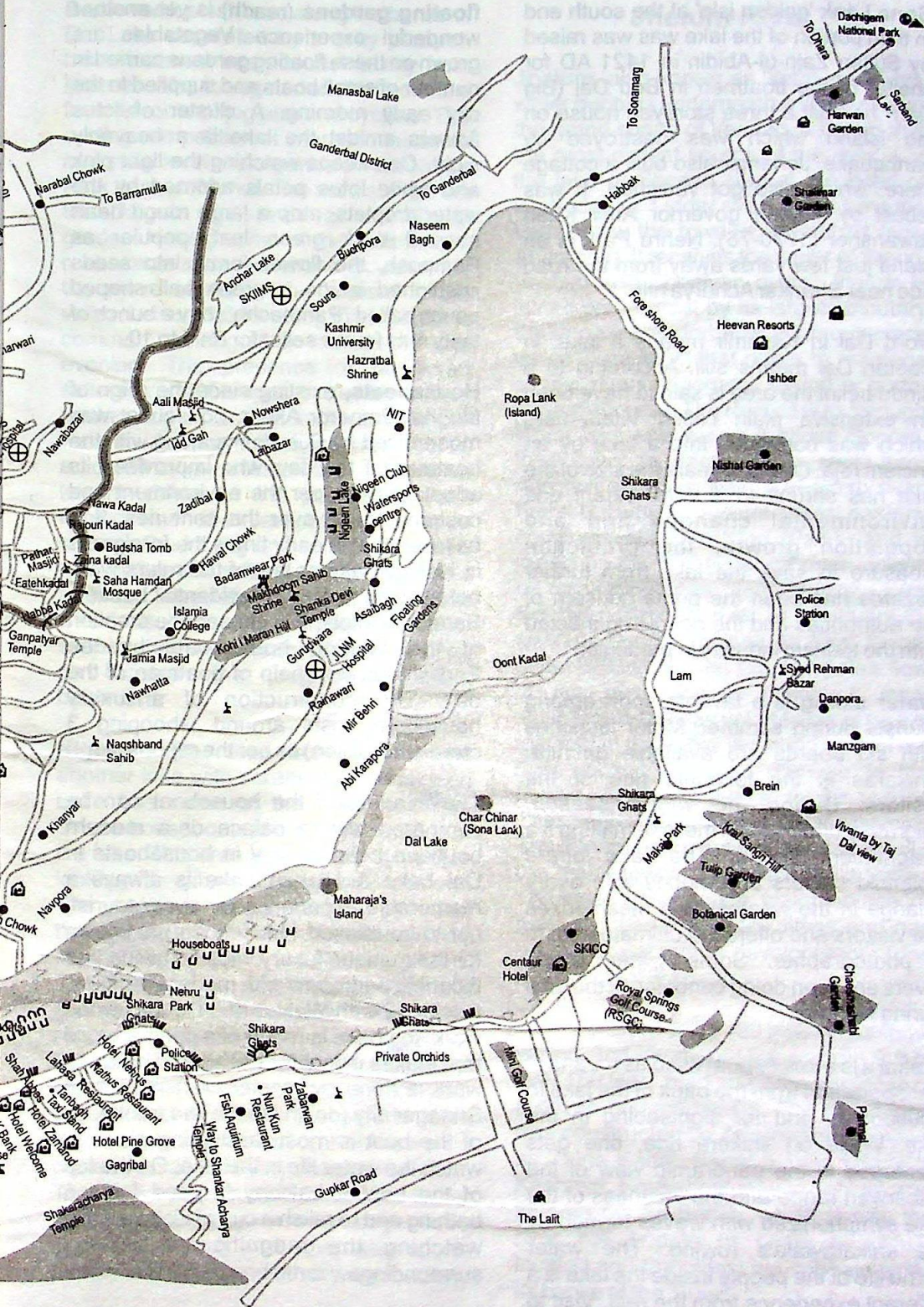
Kokker Bazar at the end of Lalchowk is the wholesale & retail market of spices, provisions & dry fruit. Across the Amira Kadal bridge, the Hari Singh High Street (HSHS) is hub of gold, jewellery and hardware's. Behind HSHS, Ghonikhan is the clustered market of home décor and readymade garments. The famous Kashmir Haat (2km) is situated in the vicinity of the HSHS, fascinating annual festival at the Haat depicts the tradition of the Kashmir and sets up the platform for buyers and sellers. The photo gallery inside the complex presents treasure of pristine pictures that potrays history of Kashmir. Just opposite to Kashmir Haat the State High court and Civil Secretariat are located across the road. The upcoming commercial centres of Karannagar (4km), Jawahar nagar (3km) and Batamaloo (5km) are minutes drive from the Jehangir chowk, where the first fly over stands.

Dal Lake

With a shoreline of 15 km, Dal lake has a total area of 18-22 sq km, surface elevation of 1583 m, length 7.5km, width 3.5km, depth 4.5ft to 20ft. Seperated into large three portions by familiar landmarks, the lake has been a boon for the development of tourism fro the valley and the state. At Dalgate, a gate lets out the lake water to prevent it from floods. Dal has three islands; **Ropa Lank** 'silver isle' popular as **Char-Chinar** was built by Prince Murad (Hassan Shah), son of Emperor Shah Jahan in 1641 AD, in Lokut Dal (small dal). Char chinar island in the middle of the second portion of the lake has been a favorite place of emperors and empresses and later it attracted the famous foreign writers/visitors like Bernier, Forster, Moorcroft, Vigne and many other travelers.

Srinagar City





Sona Lank 'golden isle' at the south end in third portion of the lake was raised by Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin in 1421 AD for shelter of the boatmen in Bod Dal (Big Dal) he built a three storeyed house on the island which was destroyed by earthquake. Jehangir also built a cottage there, which also got vanished. It was rebuilt by Afghan governor Amir Khan Jawansher (1770-76). Nehru Park is an island just few yards away from the road side near Shankar Acharya hill.

Word Dal in Kashmir means a lake, in Tibetan Dal means still. According to a Hindu belief the area is said to have been an extensive plain called Vitala-marg which was converted into a lake by an ancient raja. Over the years the size of the lake has shrunk to a large extent due environmental changes and and population growth, the protection measure to save the lake from further hazards has been the prime concern of the authorities and the people connected with the tourism industry in particular.

Water skiing is a favorite sport among tourists during summer. Motor launches with ski boards are available on hire. Shikara is the favourite ride of the visitors. During the winter season, migratory birds float in the lake making it a magnificent scene. The lake offers splendid colours and moods with every change in the weather that mesmerizes the visitors and offers the ultimate shot to a photographer. Some water sports lovers are seen doing canoeing in the lake during summer.

Shikara is a luxury boat used as means of transportation from the bank of the lake to houseboats and for sightseeing in the lake. While on shikara ride, one gets immersed in the panoramic view of the Zabarwan range and the vastness of the lake symphonized with waves formed by the shikarawala's rowing. The water borne life of the people inside the lake is a different experience from the rest. Visit to

floating gardens (raadh) is yet another wonderful experience. Vegetables are grown on these floating gardens carried in number of small boats and supplied to the city early morning. A cluster of lotus flowers amidst the lake is a heavenly sight. One keeps watching the light pink and white lotus petals adorned by the water droplets, atop a large round heart shaped thick green leaf, popular as Pamposh, the flower forms into seeds cushioned inside a green bell shaped pouch called "Pambachh", buy a bunch of tasty nuts from a seller for Rs.5 to 10.

Houseboats, existing since the reign of Mughal Emperor Akbar, houseboat was modernized by Europeans along with the boatmen of the day, who improvised its adaptability as per the environment and customer need over the centuries. It is believed that in early times the foreigners in Kashmir as per law of the rulers were not allowed to stay in residential houses, Sarais or hotels, this caused the creation of the floating houseboats by the Englishman with help of boatman of the day. The construction of a luxury houseboat costs around whooping 3 crores (30 million) as per the reports.

The interiors of the houseboat can be compared with a palace or a modern boutique hotel. A stay in houseboats in Dal Lake & Nigeen Lake is always a memorable experience for every tourist, not-to-be-missed. Houseboats are known for their unique luxury, mostly having 2 to 6 double bedrooms with modern facilities. Designed with Walnut and Deodar wood work, the base is made of a special wood that makes it float for decades. The wood work is done by master craftsman from Srinagar city (down town). The front deck of the boat is most fascinating place to watch the water life in the lake. On the top of the boat a balcony is used for sun bathing and to relish a cup of Kehwa while watching the magnificence of the surroundings.

Boulevard, plush road along the banks of Dal Lake separated by a cozy parapet, houses almost every tourist facility from internet cafes to vegetarian dhabas. It is a favorite route of joggers and cyclists. The cycling competition of international levels and state level are organised from Nehru Park through Nishat. The area starts from the Dalgate and ends at the Nishat garden. Having some of the best hotels, restaurants and other shops, Boulevard is the nerve centre of the tourism in the valley. Leisure walks along the footpath is common among the tourists in the evening. The presence of handicraft sellers on the parapet, cyclewala selling leather and other craft items, a Bhelpuriwala, tourist map sellers, ice-cream carts, a convincing shikarawala, tourist at leisure sitting on the parapet, a man fishing from the parapet, a barbecue makers Seekh Tuj and a makiawechwol or a 'buttawalla' selling corn roasted on a fireplace specially at 'makai point' near Cheshmashahi are just few common scenes that one observes while moving on through the long road called boulevard.

Nigeen Lake: 9km from Dal, is yet another lake with serene waters. Nigeen Lake has some of the most luxurious deluxe houseboats lined on three sides of the lake. This area is preferred by people looking for calm and quiet environment. The Lake is approachable by road through the old city and Fore-shore road alongside Dal Lake via Nishat garden. The Shikara ride in this placid lake is a memorable experience. Recently renovated Nigeen Club on the banks of the lake is probably one of the finest places to spend evening at. Its back-yard garden that overlooks the serene lake, houseboats and the fort on Kohi-maran is preferred place of every visitor to the club. The club complex also houses a water sports authority which organises canoeing, rafting and other water sports activity in the lake and other water bodies.

Jhelum River

Jhelum, also known as 'Veth', rose from water bubbles underneath a steep rock at the grand spring of Verinag. It is said that the most distant source of the river is in the lake of Sheesh Nag at the head of lambodari or 'Lidder river' which joins the Veth below the town of Islamabad (now Anantnag). It receives the water of Brang, Veshau and Shopiyan rivers. Jhelum is joined on the east by its largest tributary Sindh near Ganderbal at a famous place called "Shadipur" that refers to marriage of two rivers 'Sangam', taking a north-westerly course. The river passes through Wular lake and leaves it above Sopore, then flows to Baramulla in south-west direction receives waters of Lolab river. From Baramulla Jhelum takes easterly course to Muzzafarabad (PaK) and is joined by the Kishenganga river. Joined by small tributaries Jhelum finally joins the river Chenab river in south-south-westerly course making its total length about 620 miles. The silent and slow flow of the river Jhelum makes it most navigable waterway yet at times of heavy rain falls in the valley the inundation of the river causes immense damage to the people living on its banks, for this reason it has been also known as a 'sleeping loin'. The meandering river flows throughout the major towns and cities of the valley. The river has been a major source of transportation from early times and has played a vital role in development of the civilization of the region.

With a length of over 150 miles in Kashmir valley and depth that varies from 9 ft to over 150 feet, marked by the presence of a dozen bridges over it. The first bridge was constructed by Zain-ul-Abidin known as Zaina Kadal. Kadal means bridge in Kashmiri. Houseboat stay in Jhelum was favored by the British, which is why the river still boasts of some beautifully located and the oldest houseboats along its banks at the 'Bund'.

Places of Interest Mughal Gardens

Most pleasurable day picnic spots for the tourist, the famed Mughal Gardens are located between Dal Lake and Zabarwan mountain range on Boulevard. According to Sir Walter Lawrence 777 gardens were present in the vicinity of Dal during the Mughal period. Today few of these remain to be cherished as memorials of love for mankind and the natural beauty.

Old Persian Saying about the Gardens;
*"Subhe dhar Baghe Nishat wa sham
 dhar Bagh e Nasim"*

*Shalimar wa Lalazaar wa sayr e
 Kashmiryast wa bamm"*

[Morning in the shadow of the Nishat Bagh, Evening in the breezes of the Nasim, Shalimar and the Tulips fields, These are the places of pleasure in Kashmir and none else.]

Cheshmashani (Royal Springs) (9km). Situated on the foothills of Zabarwan range, the garden has a spring known for its medicinal properties. Cheshmashahi was laid out in 1632 by Ali Mardan Khan during the reign of Shah Jahan. Most serene garden about 1 km away from Boulevard, the garden area is surrounded by pine trees and myriad flora. JKTDC owned cottages and VVIP bungalows are sparsely situated amidst Zabarwan mountains add charm to the area.

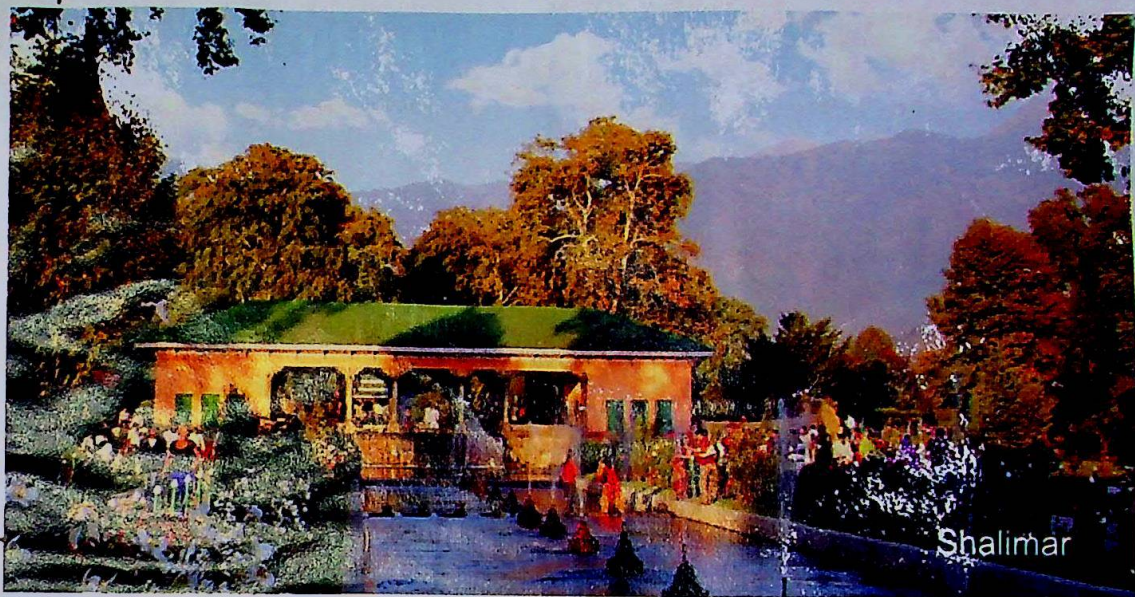
The Botanical Garden (1km away from Boulevard) on the way to Cheshmashahi, spread over several acres of land on gloriously laid terraces, was initially established by the State government for floricultural purpose which is now open for the public like other gardens. The lake in the park area has boats which can be hired by the tourists on fixed charges.

Pari Mahal (Palace of Fairy), 3km ahead of Cheshmashahi, was a school of

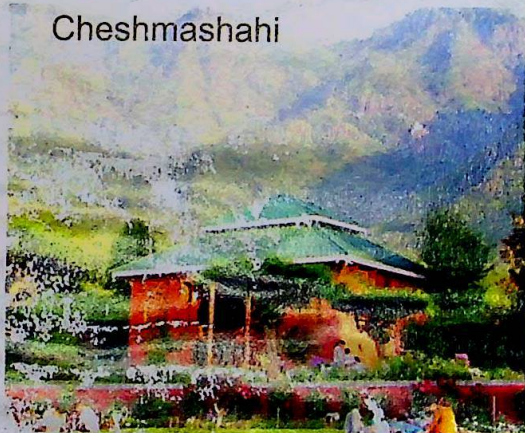
astrology built by eldest son of Shah Jahan, Prince Dara Shukho, who had keen interest in observation of stars & Sufism. The place is actually named after the Pari Begum, Dhara Shukhos wife. Perched in Zabarwan hills at a slightly higher altitude, the breathtaking view of the lake and city from the garden terraces makes every visitor stay for a little longer time.

Nishat Bagh (Garden of Gladness) (11km) Designed in AD 1634 by Abul Hassan 'Asaf Khan', eldest brother of Nur Jehan, who was governor of Kashmir during the reign of Jehangir. The 12 terraces of garden, one each for the zodiac sign rise from the banks of Dal Lake to the mountain side. A stone channel for running water in the centre has lined fountains that gush water droplets on all sides. Largest and the most visited Mughal gardens, offers spellbinding view of the Dal Lake, old city and Zabarwan hills. The gigantic chinar trees and variety of flora in the walled garden leaves every visitor captivated.

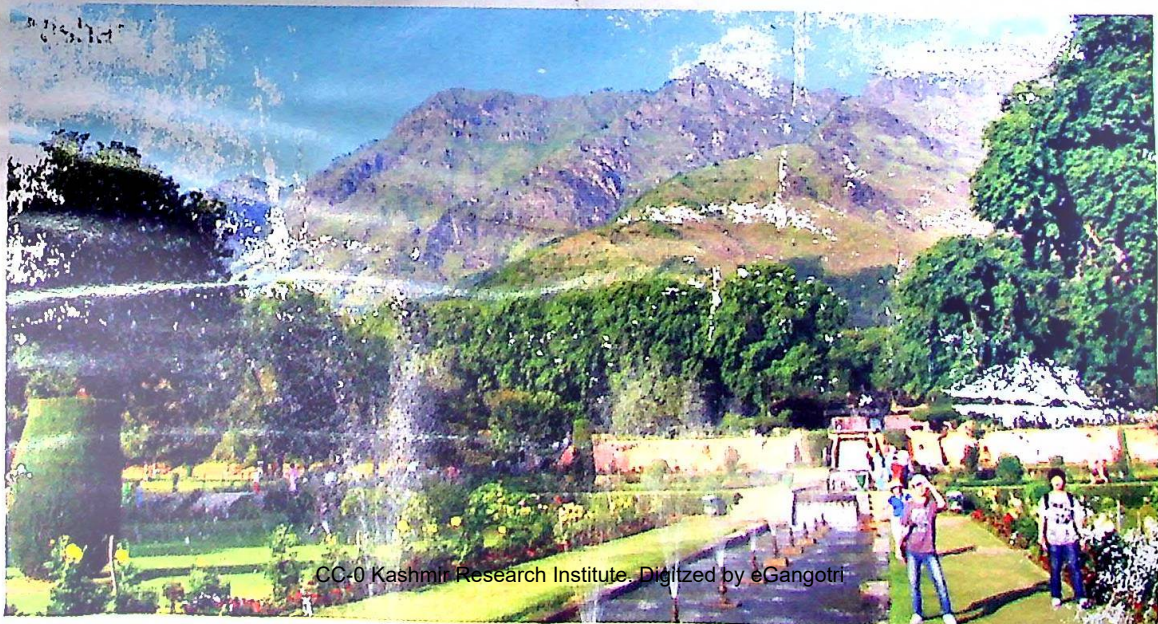
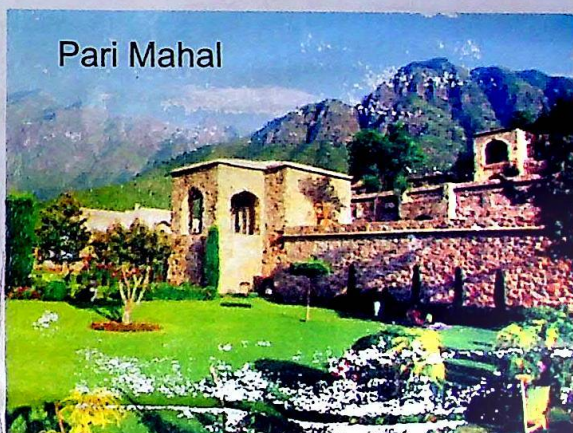
Shalimar Garden (Garden of amusement) (15 km) built by Emperor Jehangir for his wife Noor Jehan in 1620 and called Farrah Baksh or "the delightful". Extensions were made to this garden, the last one was added by Zafar Shah during the reign of Shah Jahan in 1632 AD and was thereafter known as Shalimar. The garden has some attractive Mughal structure carved from black marble in "Diwan-e-Khas" (hall of private audience) used for the guests of the Emperor as Banquet halls. The outermost enclosures "Diwan-e-Aam" (hall of public audience) were used as public gatherings. The water chunnel running through the centre with fountains equally placed glorifies the love for perfect leisure of Mughals. On – September 2013 a landmark was set on Shalimar garden when the musical maestro Zubin Mehta played bovarian – with his 100 musicians



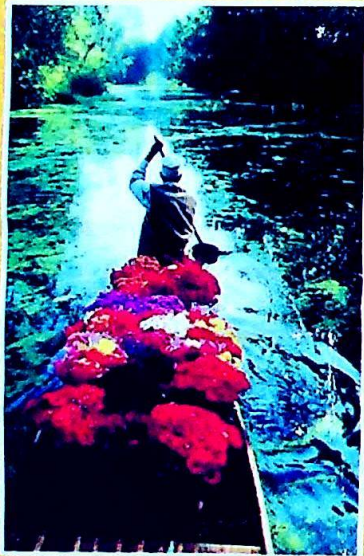
Cheshmashahi



Pari Mahal



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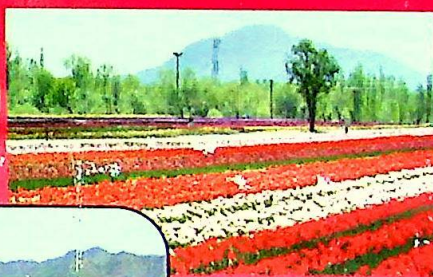
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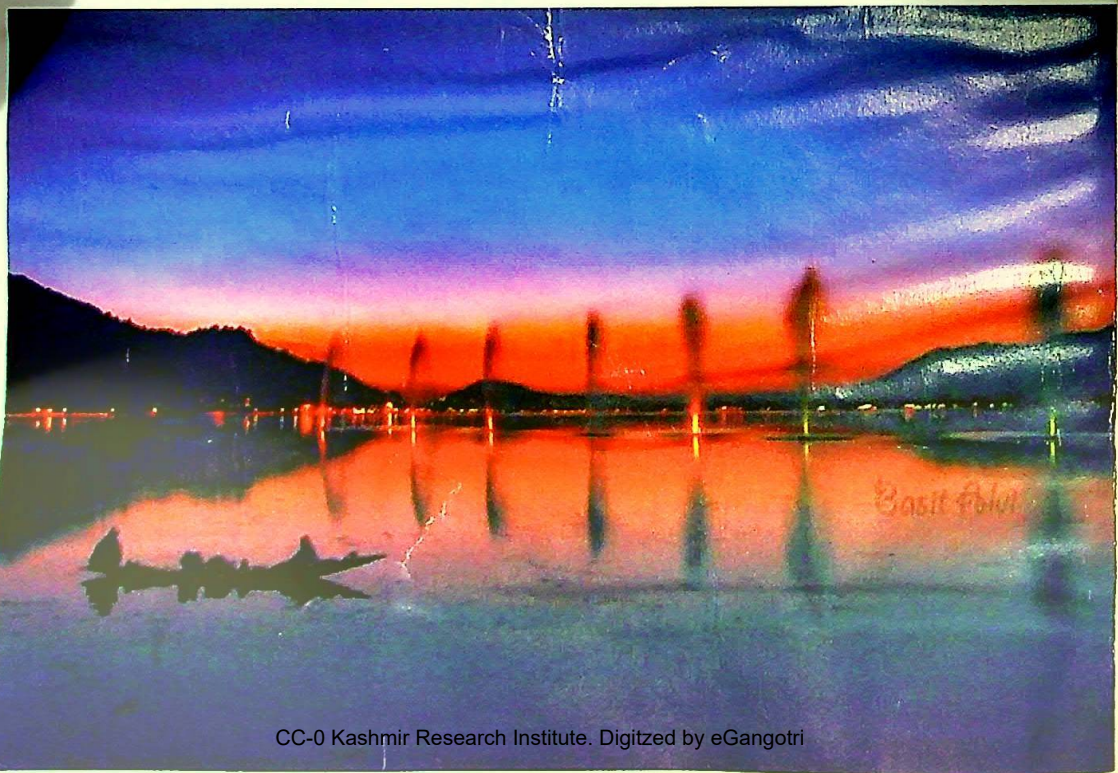


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Colours of Dal Lake
By Basit Alvi



in front of more than two thousand people. Shalimar relived in the fusion of music from Kashmir and Europe, the revolutionary symphonies not only transpired to the masses but also certainly did resonate through murmuring Chinar leaves, chirping pigeons, cascading meadows and shimmering waters of Dallake.

Harwan Garden, 20 km, like Mughal Gardens, gets a large flow of visitors for its natural ambience, cold breeze and crystal clear lake 'Sarband'. This small garden is flocked by families and school children during summer for a lunch treat near the water canal in the garden. In the nearby village ancient remains dating back to the Buddhist period have been excavated at site found by archeological department. The tiles depict dresses of the people which reveal Central Asian influence during the supremacy of Kushans. Kanishka, greatest of Kushan emperors, is said to have convened 3rd great council of Buddhist divines near Harwan about 100 AC under the presidency of Nagarjuna and drew up the Northern Canon "Great vehicle of the law" and gave an official and superior status to Mahaniyot doctrine.

Dachigam National Park

(20km) Established in 1910 and declared a National Park in 1951. The upper and lower Dachigam are spread over an area of 141sqkm altitudes vary between 1,700 and 4,300m. The dagwan stream flows from Marsar Lake (4,300m) through Lower Dachigam. Dachigam is home to famous Kashmiri Stag, 'Hangul' or Barasingha (Genus cervus), revived from the last phase of extinction, Hangul is marked as the animal of the state. The sanctuary also protects brown and black bears, leopards, musk deers, marmots and various bird species. A tiny zoo in the park sometimes present leopards and bears in the cage. Dachigam forest lodge

and the state guest house is favorite place among the state VIP's and for official events. Passes have to be obtained from the Wild life warden office at Gupkar road on boulevard. There are about – species of birds in Dachigam, the expert guides at the park can make your trip to this bird watchers paradise more meaningful.

Dhara (Harwan): 23 Km from city centre, 4 km ahead of Harwan garden, a most fascinating and adventurous place offers superb combination of rugged mountains, murmuring streams, cherry & apple orchids and village life. Uphill journey of 3km from Dachigam/Harwan bridge leads through lively village life of 'Theed', a view point enroute offers breathtaking view of the Dallake and the interior Srinagar city. Dhara village has habitation of Kashmiri speaking people upto Chek-e- Dhara and Gujjars in the upper reaches at 'Faquir gujri'. Dhara is the base camp for the Mahadev peak trek which is the highest peak in the region. A trek here leads through 'Dharad Khowur' and the "Goer pal" to Tarsar & Marsar lake. The area is connected through treks to Pahalgam and Sonamarg. JK Tourism has discovered "Astaan Marg" a perfect meadow for some awesome **Paragliding experiences** just a mile away from Dhara. A Paragliding Festival was organised to promote adventure sports among sports loving youth and tourists. Tourists can approach the department of Tourism for Paragliding on reasonable charges. A day trip or a half a day trip to Dhara could prove most rejuvenating for the adventure loving visitors.

Other Places of Interest

Zabarwan Park: Zabarwan Park situated on Boulevard, just 5 minutes walk from Nehru Park, offers fun, frolic and food blend with picturesque environs of Dallake and Shankaracharya hill. The

auditorium at the rearside of the park is used for cultural shows in the evenings during summer. The mini photo gallery in the park presents a concise collection of images of pristine Kashmir. The wazwan food joint of JKTDC in the front area, a continental restaurant on the left side and a vegetarian restaurant in the middle of the park makes it an ideal place to relish the mixture of traditional and multicuisine varieties for the food lovers.

Tulip Garden: If a bunch of flowers can do miracles, imagine what can 2 million Tulips do ! Spread over more than 25 acres of land do, opened for public in April 2007 'Tulip Garden' is actually one of the oldest gardens used for floricultural and botanical purposes in valley which was popular as Siraj bagh. Situated in the foothills of Zabarwan range near Royal Springs Golf Course Tulip Garden is just a km away from the boulevard and 8 km from city centre. The superior quality tulip bulbs imported from Holand in a huge quantity are cultivated over the acres land in the month of October & November, which is the sowing season for the tulips. Month of March the green leafy stems produce a single bud, which grows into a marvelous tulip flower from early April. People of Kashmir have been fond of flowers since early times; even Jehangir has described the practice of planting tulips on the roof tops as peculiarity of people of Kashmir. Tulip lowers observe the spreading of flower in the morning and its contraction in the evening, which makes it most magnificent flower on earth. It is called "a garden of heaven" where only lucky people get a chance to visit and carry back the magnetic charm and strength of strong colors of the Tulips. During the tulip season getting a ticket from the counter could be quite hectic due long que.

Budshas Tomb: An octagonal dome constructed in 1465 AD, over the grave of Sultan Zainulabidin's mother. On its side a

graveyard (Mazaar-e-Salateen) contains the burials of Sultan Sikander, Sultan ZaiulAbidin (Budshah), Mirza Haider Daughlat and the graves of governors and nobles of the past. Zain ul Abidin (1420-1470 AC) was reputed for being enlightened and restructuring Kashmir, he was deservedly surnamed as Budshah 'The Great King'. Sultan had love for architechture and invited artisans and craftsmen from Iran, Turan, Turkistan and Hindustan and offered them good prospects to settle down in Kashmir.

SPS Museum : The oldest in Kashmir, Sri Pratap Singh Museum is a real treasure trove where stone sculptures and various artifacts depict the religion, culture and history of Jammu & Kashmir. Museum contains stone sculptures as early as 6th century AD, Terra cotta tiles dating back to 2nd Century AD, Shah Pasand Kani Shawls of 17th century, Amlī shawl embroidered in the form of the map of Srinagar 17th to 18th century old. Shanam and holy Quran, Sikandar nama of 17th century. The coins as old as 20 BC and Sharda manuscript of 8th century AD can be noticed in the glass boxes. Near the museum lies the SPS library that holds valuable collection of books on three regions of the state.

Pampore (Saffron Fields) : The magnificent saffron fields in Pampore 11 km from Srinagar attract visitors during late October to early November to witness the blooming saffron flowers. Saffron Festival held during the first week of November, adds charm to the magnificent saffron fields and the harvest season. 'Saffron', Zafaran or Kesar of Kashmir is most desired by the housewives and good cooks for its splendid spicy qualities. Used in royal courts and theaters in Greece, saffron added the charm to the beauty of the Romans who used it also for their baths. It is said that 75000 flowers make a pound of saffron, thus its price is quite high. Saffron is used as a spice for

adding delicate aroma, pleasing flavour and beautiful natural color to food, ice creams and shakes too.

It is said that the Mughals used to camp near the fields to see the saffron flowers in the moonlight. The famous poetess Habba Khatoon grew in the area and used to sing love songs wandering in the saffron fields. When the six petalled purple flower bears the red stamen the saffron is ready to be plucked for the sale in the markets. The saffron field owners come out with their entire family and friends to collect the saffron. The spectacular scene of young boys and girls collecting saffron in wicker baskets is most cherished by the visitors. The pure and authentic purchase of saffron is real test for a saffron lover.

Burzahama (20 km) 6 km Off the Habbak-Ganderbal road, archeological excavations of pots, animal skeletons, tools from Neolithic age provides evidence of people living in the valley during 2500 BC in underground caves or pits dug into the karewa soil. Black burnished pottery, bone tools including awls, needles and harpoons, packed and ground stone axes, ring tools where the some of the articles excavated at the site near the present Burzahama village. It is believed that about 1400 BC the pit dwelling changed into structures built on the ground, which also included the innovation of the potter's wheel. Towards the end of this phase knowledge of metallurgy and human & animal burials has been traced by the archeologists.

Parihaspora & Pattan ruins : The ruined capital of the 8th century empire founded by the great King of Kashmir Lalitaditya Muktapid on the Karewas of Parihaspora, is situated at a distance of about 23 km from Srinagar off the Pattan (Baramulla) road. The ruins of Buddhist stupa, a monastery, few Vishnu temples, Raj Bhwan and a Chaitya were first put to

excavation in the year 1914 by the archeologists. Site presents the systematic constructions made out of large stones in early times by the artisans brought from different places by the King. A visit to this site would open a plethora of historical facts and present the height of civilization achieved by the people of Kashmir in early times.

Pattan ruins on main Baramulla road locally called 'Pandaw-laeri' are the temple named after Sankar Gaurisa & his wife Sugandesha. Sankarawarman son of Awantiwarman reigned during 883 to 901 AD. The park surrounding the ruins is a favorite resting place for the local visitors and villagers. A visit to Parihaspora and further on to the Pattan ruins depicts the centuries old rich culture of the land.

Religious Places in Srinagar

Hazratbal Shrine

Hazratbal shrine was originally built in 1634 AD by Sadiq Khan for the purpose of prayers during Mughal reign. Emperor Shah Jehan declared this place perfect for worship as he would conveniently perform ablution at the banks of the Dal Lake and perform prayers. The holy relic *moi-e-muqqadas* was placed at Hazratbal during the reign of Emperor Aurangzeb around 1699 AD when Fazil Khan was the governor of Kashmir.

It is believed that the relic passed on from the descendant of prophet Mohammed SW (Peace be Upon Him) and reached to Sayyid Abdullah, a *muttawali* (caretaker) of Prophets PBUH shrine in Madina. In 1634 AD Sayyid alongwith his family visited India, where he was granted *jagir* (estate) and got settled in Bijapur. After his death the relic passed on to his son Sayyid Hamid. He sought the help of resourceful Kashmiri trader Khwaja Nor-ud-Din Ashwari in Jehanabad where Hamid wanted to restore his *Jagir*. For the

immense support of Kashmiri trader Sayyid Hamid offered the relic to the Khwaja. Aurangzeb wanted to place the relic at Ajmer and demanded for the relic from the Kashmiri trader. Khwaja was aggrieved by this and he died at Lahore due to the shock. Before his death he desired to a friend Khwaja Medanish that the relic should reach Kashmir. Meanwhile Aurangzeb in his dream is said to have been directed by the Phrophe^t Mohammed SW (PBUH) to restore the relic to the trader. Khwaja Medanish took the relic to Kashmir where initially it was placed at Khankah of Naqshband sahib and later the relic wa placed inside the mosque at Hazratbal. the body of Khwaja Noor-ud-Din Ashwari was buried near the Hazratbal shrine at the graveyard.

Hazratbal shrine is the most visited shrine in Kashmir valley where people arrive from far and near to attend five times prayers every day. On some important dates in Islamic calendar the Holy Relic is displayed to the public to seek the blessings. The barbers make handsome sale from the first hair cut of newly born child at the shrine complex, as performing the rite at the shrine is considered most sacred in the valley. The shrine area has some of the fascinating shops selling traditional food items.

Pir Dastagir Sahib

(5km) The shrine of Hazrat Shiekh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani RA of Baghdad, is one of the most revered shrines in Valley. The old shrine had wonderful appearance borne by its architecture. Shrine was gutted in an untoward fire incident in 2012, reconstruction on same pattern is underway. The holy relic in the shrine is displayed to the faithful on religious occasions when large gathering of people is witnessed. The belief in Dastagir Sahib is deep rooted in the hearts of common people of the Valley. At the most trying times and laborious work, a slogan "Ya Peer Ya Dastgeer" (O my

master oh my benefactor) is most common among Kashmiri.

Jamia Masjid

In 1398 AD the construction of Jamia Masjid was started by Sultan Sikander in consultation with the Shah Hamdan. Sultan Sikandar invited the great engineer Sayyid Mohammad Sadur-ud-din from Khurasan who drafted the plan of Jamia masjid. The plan was laid such that the mosque would accommodate 40,000 worshipers at a time. The construction was completed in about 1402 AD. The mosque was rebuilt by Sultan Hassan Shah grandson of Sultan Zainulabidin. Reconstructed after devastating fire incidents during the reign of Jahangir & Aurengzeb, mosque was twice repaired by Afghans. Jamia Masjid was closed for nearly 25 years during Sikh rule and reopened and repaired by Shaikh Ghulam Mohiudin, a governor under Sikh rule with the further contribution of Shaikh Maqbul Hassan Qidwai, then Revenue Minister, Colonel H.A.D Fraser then state engineer, Mr. Thad Avery the contractor and Archeological department. The ceiling of the mosque is supported by 378 wooden pillars. The congregation at Jamia is mammoth particularly on Fridays when people from nearby and far off place come for the prayers and listen to the Khutba (Friday Sermon) of head priest.

Shah Hamdan Mosque

Shah Hamdan Mosque (7km) built in 14th century by Sultan Qutab-ud-Din and Sultan Sikandar (1395 AC) in respect of Syed Ali Hamdani RA. Syed Ali Hamdani RA born in 714 A.H (1314 AC) at Hamdan in Iran. Syed Ali Hamdani became Hafiz-e-Quran (one who knows Quran by heart) in his early boyhood, he studied Islamic theology, acquired knowledge and learnt Tasawwuf (Sufism) under the tuition of Sayyid Ala-ud-Din Simnani RA, his maternal uncle. Shah Hamdan travelled to several countries, some believe that he travelled three times over the whole world

and met 1400 saints. The rise of Timur Iran forced him to leave for Kashmir. He left along with 700 sayyids came to Kashmir in 1372 for the first time during the reign of Shihab-ud-din. During his regular long stays in Kashmir Shah Hamdan played a major role in spreading Islam in the valley. Shah Hamdan RA was a profound scholar, a prolific writer and a versatile in many subjects of Science. Syed Ali Hamdamni Urs (festival) is celebrated on 6th Zilhaj (Islamic calendar) in Kashmir valley with much reverence to the saint who spread the light of Islam in the region. The mosque's breathtaking wood carving and fine Papier Machie work indicates the Chinese origin in the region. Rear view of the mosque blend with colours of Jhelum river is a landmark in the history of Kashmir. On the doorway of the shrine carved inscription 786 Hijri corresponds to 1384 AD, the year of Shah Hamdans demise at Pakli in Hazara whereafter the saint was buried in Khutlan.

Rauzabal

The sacred tomb" located in Anzimar, Khanyar near Dastgir sahib shrine, in the heart of old Srinagar city, is the tomb of Hazrat "Yuzu Asaph". This saint is supposed to be the descendant of Moses who was sent as an ambassador by the ruler of Egypt to the court of emperor Budshah in Kashmir. According to a philosophy, in Hebrew word Yuzu indicates to 'Yesu' Jesus PBUH and Asaph means the 'gatherer'. It is believed that Jesus PBUH arrived in the valley from Palestine after the Resurrection in quest of the lost Israel tribe and this tomb is said to be final resting place of the Prophet. According to Tarikh-e-Kashmir by Mulla Nadiri. Hazrat Yuzu Asaph arrived from Palestine and proclaimed his ministry in the valley. He asked people to follow oneness of God during the reign of Raja Gopadatta in the year 54 (middle of the first century) or 78 AD. According to Sulaiman a minister of Gopadatta who had come from Persia to repair a temple,

"Yusu was the prophet of Children of Isreal".

It is said that the people of Kashmir having become idolators after the great flood of Noah, Yuzu Asaph was sent as a prophet for the people to reestablish their faith. Some say Yuzu Asaph was Jesus PBUH in disguise and others describe Yuzu as an apostle of God sent to minister the people of Kashmir.

Shankar Acharya Temple

5km from Nehru Park, the temple stands atop Takht-e-Suleman (1100 ft). Legend describes the building of temple by King Solomon in 3000 BC to store the treasure of 300 golden and silver statues. Other thought describes that the temple was originally built by Jaluka, Ashoka's son, around 200 BC. The present temple was built during the reign of Jehangir on the original plinth of the temple. Shankaracharya (788-820 AC), a famous hindu saint came to Kashmir in early 9th century from south India (Kerala) to preach and learn Vedantic & Shaivism thoughts. He stayed on top of the hill near the temple, for which it is named after the saint. The temple of Lord shiva has a Shiv lingam which worshiped by the Hindus. Off the Boulevard at Nehru Park a 3 km road leads to the temple area, steep stairway to the temple needs lot of effort to reach to the temple courtyard at the extreme top of the hill.

Koh-e-Maran

'The hill of snakes' (Hari Parbat) (6 km) Surmounted by an 18th century fort, constructed by Atta Mohammad Khan an Afghan governor. The hill is surrounded by a wall built by Akbar in AD 1592-98. Entry to this site is restricted for the time being. Almond orchards below the hill used to be a favorite picnic spot of Kashmiri people in spring during blossom time (Badamwar). According to a legend, goddess Parvati appeared in form of a bird and dropped a pebble on the demon

that lived in the lake 'Satisar'. The pebble grew into a hill crushing the demon to death. Another legend says that it was the goddess Sati (controller of nature) who appeared in shape of a Sharika bird (Meena) known as Hari or Heaar in Kashmiri. There is a Gurudwara (Sikh temple) and a Hindu temple of Sharika Devi at the foothills. This makes the hill a mark of solidarity for major religious faith in Kashmir.

Shrine of Maqdoom Sahib

(6 Km) Shiekh Hamza Makhdum a revered saint of Kashmir was born in 900 A.H (1494 AC) in Tujur, after studying elementary Quran in his village was sent to Baba Ismail Kubrawi by his father Baba Usman. Commonly known as Hazrat Sultan or Makhdoom Saheb, he was instrumental in setting up large number of mosques in the valley. He died at the age of 84 , in 984 A H (1576 AC) and was buried at his favorite resort of meditation on slopes of Koh-e-Maran. Nawab Inayat Ullah Khan, subedar during Mughal rule built the mausoleum in 1125 AH (1713 AC). Sheikh Ghulam Mohiyudin governor during Sikh rule rebuilt it.

Chatti Padshahi Sahab

(6 km) Situated at the foothills of the Koh e Maran at Rainawari crossing the most revered Sikh Gurdwara has significant workmanship in white colour with golden minarets.

Naqashband Sahib

(5.5 km) The Shrine of Syed Bahuddin Naqshband sahib Mushkil Kusha RA, the founder of Sufism in Bukhara (Uzbekistan). It is a masterpiece designed with wonderful woodwork, yet another example of architectural talent of Kashmir in early 17th century when the shrine was built in memory of Khwaja who did not visit the valley himself but sent his disciple Khwaja Noor-ud-Din, who his buried in the graveyard near the shrine. The graveyard known as 'Mazaar-e-

Shohda' adjacent to the shrine is the burial place of many known and un known freedom fighters of Kashmir of past and present times.

Pathar Masjid

(5 Km) on the other side of Jehlum, opposite Shah Hamdan Mosque, is Pathar Masjid which was built by Empress Nur-Jehan. It is said that the mosque was never consecrated as Nur Jehan apparently had hurt the sentiments of the religious leaders of the time. Even today, no collective prayers (Jamat) is offered here officially. The structure stands witness to the unmatched stonework that still has a glorious shine. Pather Masjid is a historical monument protected by the Archeological Society of India.

Aali Masjid

(8 Km) Situated at the famous Iddgah grounds, originally built by Ali Shah the son of Sultan Sikander in 1415 AD and rebuilt by Aurangzebs governor Islam Khan in 1664-65. The repair work to protect a valuable vernacular structure for the future has been completed by Tourism Deptt. Five times prayers are now offered at the mosque regularly by the people.

How to Reach these Places

Srinagar city is well connected by the regular service of mini couches which can be used to reach most of the above mentioned places of interest within a 22 km range; one can board these coaches at bus stops on the road sides at a economical charges from Rs.4 to Rs.10 as per the distances. Farther places can be reached by boarding a local bus from the bus stops near Batamaloo and Panthachowk. Regular Sumo services from all Taxi stands in the city operate for all major towns and far off villages on per seat basis. This transport service is used by the local people for commuting from towns to city and back. The Train service from Nowgam Railway Station (9km) to

Anantnag can be a delightful journey. One can also hire a taxi from any taxi stand on point to point basis or ask for a conducted tour from the transporters. Travel agents provide vehicles at per day charges for a local sightseeing.

Where to Shop

Every handicraft seller or a jeweler allures a visitor to make purchases at his setup, so bargaining is the mantra to make a best buy. It is reasonable to buy article like paper machie , wood carving , hand bags , chain stitch and willow wicker items if your budget is-low. For costlier items such as carpets, shawls, jewelry, crewel, leather jackets and large wood carving items one should be ready to shell out a descent sum of money to purchase a quality product. Some of the famous shopping areas in Srinagar are Boulevard, Dalgate, Residency Road, Lambert lane, Poloview, Lal Chowk, Kokkar bazaar and the interior parts of the city like Bohri kadal, Mahariganj and Hazratbal. If the money is not a constraint but the time is, then it's ideal to walk into a shopping arcade on boulevard situated right upto Mughal gardens where every thoughtful cache can be treasured. In case of a need to purchase a smart suit, pair of jeans, light or heavy jacket, carry bag, sport shoes , sweater or a T-shirt of Indian and foreign brands then the right place to shop at is the Lambert lane, Fairdeal complex, Aabiguzar lane, Poloview ,the bund, Hyderpora crossing and town square at Jawaharnagar.

Where to Stay

Srinagar offers accommodation in all ranges, from exuberant price tags of star hotels and luxury houseboats to low budget rooms in standard hotels & semi-deluxe houseboats. Boulevard and its surrounding area are clustered with hotels and guest houses having variety of

rooms to suit the taste of tourists. A houseboat is the primary choice of visitors for the stay. Houseboat has generally 03 to 06 double bed rooms and are thickly situated in the Dallake , Naginlake has equally good luxurious houseboats and some parts of Jhelum particularly at the Bund and near Zero Bridge, old houseboats offer comfortable rooms at reasonable rates. Categorised from Deluxe to C, the room rent is accordingly charged from Rs.5500/- to Rs. 1000 as per the category.

Most desired 5 star category hotel Vivanta by Taj, Dalview, Srinagar is situated atop Kralsangri hill near Tulip garden on Boulevard, the hotel offers magnificent view of Dallake, Zabarwan hills and Srinagar city. The Lalit Grand palace a luxury heritage hotel is on the Gupkar road . These premier hotels have rates of Rs.14000 and above. Other leading hotels equalent to 3 star category are situated right from Lalchowk thorough M.A Road, Boulevard, Gupkar and Nishat area where the room tariff starts from Rs.5000 to Rs.10000/-. Hotels in the range of Rs.2000 to 4000/- per room are spread over in the areas like Boulevard, inner boulevard lane, Buchwara, Sonawar, Rajbagh, Bishember Nagar, Kohankhan, Khayam , Residency road, Nishat road, Rajbagh and Lalchowk. Guest houses with the room rent of Rs.800 to Rs.2000 are sparsely situated in every corner of the city. All hotels and houseboat offer off-season discount upto 30% on the room tariff as per the market/season.

Srinagar: Best time to visit: Round the year.

Some Houseboats DAL LAKE

HB INDOORA Boulevard, Dallake, Srinagar, Cell: 9906596262,

HB FAIRYLAND, Boulevard, Dallake, Srinagar, Cell: 9906564932, Tel: 2459887, Email: tariq9390@rediffmail.com, Website:www.houseboatfairyland.com

HB DULCE DOMUM, Boulevard, Dallake,
Srinagar, Cell: 9906665235, Tel: 2459867.

HB DERBY SHIRE, Opp hotel Paradise,
Dallake, Srinagar,
Cell: 9419423322, 9797078364,
E-mail: farooqderbyshire@yahoo.com

HB NEW SHABINA YOUNG SHABINA,
Opp. Welcome hotel, Dallake, Srinagar.
Tel: 2453607, Cell: 9906546340.

SUN FLOWER GROUP OF HB, Boulevard
Dallake, Srinagar, Tel: 2500650, Cell: 9419078813.

TRAMBAK HB, Opp New Park Hotel, Dallake,
Srinagar Tel: 2454143, 9906795858.

ASHOKA HB, Bolwvard, Dallake, Tel: 2454621 ,
Cell: 9906439892

HB QUEEN OF SHEEBA, Dallake Srinagar,
Tel: 2454526, Cell: 9906429067
E-mail: queenofsheeba786@gmail.com,
queenofsheeba786@yahoo.com,

HB SHAH PARIE, Dallake Srinagar
Tel: 2470433, cell: 9419001742,
E-mail: ladakharts2001@yahoo.co.in

HB NANCY, Dallake, Srinagar
Cell: 9906546681, 9796321449.

HB LALITA, Dallake, Opp Hotel Shah Abbas,
Srinagar Tel: 2458407, Cell: 9797014645.

SALEEM GROUP OF HB, Dallake Srinagar,
GPO Box No: 765 Tel: 2461851, Fax: 2461622,
Cell: houseboatsaleem@yahoo.in

HB YELLOW SUBMARINE, Dallake, Gate No:1,
Srinagar, Tel: 2500780, Cell: 9906471650
E-mail: alibaba.pala@gmail.com

HB PRIDE OF INDIA,
Dallake, Gate No.1, Srinagar Cell: 9858349024,
E-mail: prideonlake@yahoo.com

HB YOUNG RAJA, Dallake Srinagar,
Cell: 9622600396.

HB RAJAS PALACE, Dallake, Srinagar
Tel: 2105193, Cell: 9622587926.

HB NEELAM, Dallake, P O Box No. 327, Srinagar
Tel: 2108328, Cell: 9906506863.
E-mail: peeryousuf@yahoo.co.in

HB GOA KUWAIT, Dallake, Opp Park hotel,
Srinagar, Tel: 2500681, Cell: 9906546016,
9469029191.

HB HONGKONG, Opp Hotel Shah Abbas, Dallake,
Srinagar, Cell: 9906826706.

HB CEYLON, Dallake, Srinagar,
Tel: 9906757503,
E-mail: synite7@yahoo.co.in

HB KISMAT, Dallake, P O Box No. 380,
Tel: 2500727,
E-mail: sakeenadar@yahoo.com

AMBASSADOR HB, Dallake, P O Box No. 389,
Opp welcome hotel, Tel: 2501569,
cell: 9906472045,
E-mail: husamdin786@yahoo.com,
www.ambassadorboatblogspot.com

HB ALMOST HEAVEN, Golden Dallake, Dallake,
Opp New Park Hotel, Srinagar,
Tel: 2474031 Cell: 9906433525, 9906742581

HB BEAUTY STAR, Dallake, P O Box No.26,
Srinagar, Tel: 2459540, Cell: 9419401319,
E-mail: beautystar65@hotmail.com

KOHI MARAN GROUP, Boulevard, Dallake,
P O Box No. 239, Telefax : 2485532,
Cell: 9906564707,
E-mail: kohimarangroup@yahoo.com,
www.kohimarangroup.com

HONOLULU HB: Golden Dallake
Srinagar-190001 (India) Tel: 2454151,
Cell: 9419004482, 09906726160.

NEW LIGHT GROUP OF HB
Dallake, Srinagar, Cell: 9419073186

HB ZAMRUD, Dallake, Gate No.1, Srinagar,
Tel: 2485266, Cell: 9906593351,
E-mail: zamrudsg@yahoo.co.in,

SWAN GROUP OF HB,
Dallake, Srinagar, P O Box No.118,
Tel: 2459132, 9419062111, 9906472846
E-mail: houseboatswan@yahoo.com

GREEN VIEW GROUP OF HB, Dallake
Gate No.2, Srinagar
Cell: 9906515125.
Email: fazian_shangloo@yahoo.co.in,
adil_shangloo@yahoo.co.in

VENICE OF THE EAST, Dallake, Srinagar,
Tel: 2477489 , cell: 9419061430.
Website: www.veniceofeasttours.com
E-mail: veniceofeasttt@yahoo.co.in

NEW SWIFT DELUXE HB, Dallake,
Via Mamta Hotel, Srinagar,
Tel: 2486081, Cell: 9906758768.

MARTANDA GROUP OF HB, Dallake,
Via Mamta Hotel, Srinagar,
Cell: 9419003046, 9906543393
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HB NEW SULTAN, Dallake, Srinagar,
(Via New Mamta Hotel) Tel: 2453567,
Cell: 9906758768.
E-mail: hunkydoriarts111@yahoo.com

HB HUNKY DORI, Dallake, Srinagar, (Via New
Mamta Hotel) Tel: 2453567, Cell: 9906758768.
E-mail: hunkydoriarts111@yahoo.com

HB HOWRAH, Dallake, Srinagar, Tel: 2500110,
Cell: 09419056877, 9797716047
E-mail: biloomran@yahoo.com

HB GLASS GOW, Dallake, Srinagar,
Cell: 9906711568.

HB RAJDOOT DELUXE, Dallake, Srinagar,
Tel: 2500443, Cell: 9906515587, 8803908929.
E-mail: rajdoot.baber@rediffmail.com

HB PLATO & ARISTOTLE, Golden Dallake,
Opp Park Hotel, Srinagar, Tel: 2472917,
Cell: 9419060140, 9906707747.
E-mail: hb-aristotle@yahoo.co.in

YOUNG HOLLYWOOD GROUP OF HB,
Dallake, Srinagar, Tel: 2457376,
Cell: 9906587621, 9622857336
E-mail: gulammohdpatloo@yahoo.com,
jppatloo@yahoo.co.in

HOLLYWOOD GROUP OF HB, Golden Dallake,
opp city delpot hotel, Srinagar,
Tel: 2500459, Fax: 2572917
Cell: 9906565529
E-mail: gulammohdpatloo@yahoo.com,
hollywoodgroup@yahoo.com,
jppatloo@yahoo.co.in

SEA PALACE GROUP OF HB, Dallake,
Opp hotel boulevard, PO Box no. 300, Srinagar,
Tel: 2454001, Cell: 9906722914,

YOUNG MORNING STAR GROUP OF HB,
Dallake, Opp. Hotel Duke, Srinagar,
Tel: 2471071, Cell: 9419087819, 9622431017,
Email: youngmorningstar2003@yahoo.com

MORNING STAR GROUP OF HB,
Opp. Hotel Duke, Srinagar, Tel: 2474456,
Cell: 9906811101, 9906565116,
Email: hbmorningstar@yahoo.com

NEW MORNING STAR GROUP OF HB,
Dallake, Opp Hotel Boulevard, Srinagar,
Cell: 9419007083, 9906754592,
Email: ibrahimkarnai@yahoo.co.in

DELAILA GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS:
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar-190001,
Tel: 2482803, Cell: 09906967738,
Email: info@delailahouseboatskashmir.com,
www.delailahouseboatskashmir.com

HB LAILA MAJNOON, Dallake, Opp Hotel
Boulevard, Srinagar, Tel: 2500868
Cell: 9906630021, 9797166249,
Email: bshalla@yahoo.com

MEENA GROUP
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar-190001,
Tel: 2474044, Cell: 9419014570,
Email: reservation@meenahouseboats.com,
www.meenahouseboats.com

MAHJONG GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar-190001,
Tel: 2500400, Cell: 9419013874, 9419003420
Email: tourinfo@shangloutravels.com,
www.mahjonghousebaot.com

KOLU HOUSEBOATS
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar-190001,
Tel: 2458830, Cell: 9419404657, 9906709713,
Email: tours@travelexecelence.net,
www.kashmirhouseboats.net

SHAHNAMA GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS,
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar-190001,
Tel: 2501234, Cell: 9419011720, 9419072526,
Email: shahnamagroup@hotmail.com,
www.shahnamatours.com

NEW PRIDE OF KASHMIR, Dallake, Near Nehru
park, Srinagar, P O Box no. 541,
Tel: 2479544 Cell: 9906516112,
Email: yousofbot@yahoo.com

NEW SHAMAS MAQBOOL,
Dallake, Opp Hotel Boulevard, Srinagar,
Tel: 2500868 Cell: 9419010048, 9205029048,
Email: nkctours@gmail.com

HB NEW GOLDEN FLEECE,
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar,
Cell: 9622741233, Email: parvezratta@yahoo.com

TAJ MAHAL HB, Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar,
Tel: 2480271 Cell: 9419061672, 9596478545,
Email: bshalla@yahoo.com

HB YOUNG DREAM HOUSE, Dallake,
Nehru Park, Srinagar, Tel: 2501782, 9906938341,
Email: dar-hilal@yahoo.com

HB NEW GULISTAN,
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar-190001
Cell: 9419007805 (M. Ramzan)

HB DALGOMA, Dallake, Nehru Park,
Srinagar-190001. Cell: 9419003982

HB BOSTAN, Gulistan group of houseboats,
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar-190001,
Tel: 2453760, Fax: 2501651,
Email: guru1@sancharnet.in,
www.bostan-gulistan.com

TUNDA PALACE, Dallake, Nehru Park,
Srinagar-190001, Tel: 2501728 Cell: 94194225533

HELEN GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS,
Shankaracharya Ghat, Dallake Nehru Park,
Srinagar-190001, Tel: 2470496, Cell: 9419007025,
Email: hassansurma@hotmail.com,
www.heleninkashmir.com

NANGA PARBAT FLEET OF HOUSEBOATS,
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar-190001,
Tel: 2500337, Cell: 9818318929,
Email: holidaysinfloatingtajmahals@yahoo.com
www.himalayan_holiday.com

LOTUS GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS,
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar-190001
Tel. : 09858343672

MUGHAL SHERATON GROUP OF
HOUSEBOATS: Dallake, Opp New Park Hotel,
Srinagar Tel: 2459144, Cell: 9419076397

CROWN OF INDIA GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS,
Dal Lake, Srinagar Cell: 9419078289

ROYAL SAFINA, Opp Park Hotel, Boulevard,
Srinagar Cell: 9906595496, 9419054545

HB VICTORIA GARDEN, Gate No. 2 Dallake,
Opp. Welcome Hotel, Srinagar.
Tel: 0194-2108494, Cell: 9419058931, 9906544503
Email: gardenvictoria7@yahoo.com

YOUNG AMBASSADOR,
Boulevard Road, Gate No.2.Opp. Welcome Hotel,
Dallake, Srinagar, Kashmir.
Cell: 9906471246, 8803909376
Email: irfan_shangloo@yahoo.com,

NEW BEAUTY STAR HOUSE BOAT,
Dallake Srinagar, Tel:01942458654,
Cell:9906529487,9796566142,
Email:nbs_riyaz@yahoo.com

AMINA GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS, PO Box 86,
Dallake Srinagar. Tel: 2501536,
Cell: 9419080458, 9906806564
Email: hb_aminagroup@yahoo.com

HB NEW MOON GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS,
Opp. New Park Hotel Dallake Srinagar. PO Box 86,
Tel: 09906457975, 9906840468, 9906651045.

HB MORNING GLORY, Gate no. 2 Dallake
Srinagar, Cell:9697384272, 09906536394,
09796314332, 9469405066
Email: rahil.dunoo@gmail.com,
rahil.dunoo50@gmail.com

NEW SOUL KISS GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS,
Ghat No. 9 , Opp New Park Hotel,
Golden Dallake , Srianagar.
Cell: 9419006757, 9797108762, 9419069506

Email: shanna786@rediffmail.com ,
paradise_holidays2007@hotmail.com

SAVOY GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS, Dallake,
Srinagar, Cell: 9596501115
Email: nhi_kash@hotmail.com,
www.natureholidaysindia.com

DASTAN GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS,
Dallake, Nehru Park, Srinagar,
Cell: 9906723567,
Email: dastantours@gmail.com,
www.dastanhouseboats.com

MERLIN GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS,
Golden Dallake , Opp New Park Hotel,
Boulevard, Srinagar.
Tel: 9906816726, 9797315131
Email: dharmatravels_28@yahoo.com

NIGEEN LAKE :
GURKHA GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS,
Nigeen lake, Srinagar

JEWEL OF KASHMIR HOUSEBOATS,
Nigeen Lake, Srinagar, Tel: 2477677
Fax: 2452477, Cell: 9419000066,
Email: hilltour@vsnl.com,
www.kashmirhouseboat.com

NEW YORK HOUSEBOATS,
Mirza Bagh Nigeen lake, Srinagar,
Tel: 2428495, Cell: 9419004163.
Email: holidayshah@yahoo.com,
www.kashmirhouseboats.biz

PEACE OF MIND GROUP OF HOUSEBOATS,
Nigeen Lake, Srinagar, Tel: 2427644
Cell: 9419005230, 9419062782.

HB WASHINGTON, Nigeen lake, Srinagar,
Tel: 242786, Cell: 9797772496.

INSHA-ALLAH HOUSEBOATS,
Nigeen Lake, Srinagar
Tel: 2420397, 2421003 Cell: 9419404099,
Email: motherkashmirjr@rediffmail.com

ZAFFAR HOUSEBOATS: Nigeen lake, Srinagar.
Contact: Suleman Complex dalgate, Srinagar
Tel: 2500879 Email: Kashmir@rbstravels.net

HOUSEBOAT PEONY & YOUNG PEONY:
Nasim Bagh, Nigeen Lake, Srinagar
Tel: 2424393, Cell: 9906512938.

YOUNG SHALIMAR, Nigeen Lake, Srinagar,
Cell: 9796753942.

MASCOT HOUSEBOATS,
Nigeen lake, Srinagar,
Cell: 9419005714.

JHELM RIVER

HB KARIMA PALACE, Abi Guzar the Bund near
Moti Mahal Hote, Tel: 2100859.

YOUNG ISLA HOUSEBOAT, Near Abdullah Bridge,
Rajhbag, Cell: 9419421779.

Some Hotels In Srinagar

(Courtesy : KHARA, KHAROF, JKHC
& Other sources)

AARKAY Munawarabad
Tel : 0194-2459651, 9697000206, 9697093987
Fax: 0194-2456758
Email: hotelrksrinagar@gmail.com
hotelreksrinagar@yahoo.com

ABI-HAYAT Boulevard Road
Tel: 0194-2501101, 9906460372, 9906681664
Email: hotelabihayat@yahoo.com

ABODE Rajbagh 9419945892, 9797158539

AHAD HOTELS & RESORTS C/o Heevan Travels
& Tours 0194-2501323, 2500299,
Telefax: 2500525, 9419062787, 9906680511,
Email: info@ahadhotelsandresorts.com, Website:
www.ahadhotelsandresorts.com

AHDOO'S Residency Road
Tel: 0194-2472593, 2477505, 2471984, 2477507,
Fax: 2455251
E-mail: ahdooshotel@yahoo.com

AKBAR Dalgate, Tel: 0194-2500507, 2500916,
2501650, 9797793480, 09868183046 Fax:
2501647
Email:- sales@hotelakbar.com, lateef@vsnl.com
Website: www.hotelakbar.com,
www.zaffarhouseboats.com

AKBAR RESIDENCY Durganag,
Tel: 0194-2500739, 9906809998
Fax: 0194-2501621
Email: akbarresidency@rediffmail.com

AKBAR INN HOTEL, Indira Nagar,
Tel: 0194-2465465, 2465445, 9797793480
Email: sales@hotelakbar.com

ALEXANDER Bishamber Nagar, 2471029,
9419771034 Fax: 2481662

AL-HABIB Hazratbal, Tel: 0194-2428977, 2421093,
9419006154, 9419714755
Fax: 0194-2423973
Email: hb202229@rediffmail.com,
Website: www.hotelalhabib.com

AL-HAMRA Buchwara

AL-HAMZAH Kohankhan, 0194-2481662,
9906733122, 9906602291
Email: hotel.alhamzah@gmail.com

ALPHA Bishamber Nagar
Fax: 0194-2450875, 9906413113, 9419054009
Email: naveed060@hotmail.com

AL-IMRAN Neelam Chowk 2475223

AL-RAHAT Court Road,
Lal Chowk 2458875, 9419002829
Email: mehboobmir66@yahoo.com

AL-RASHID Rajbagh
TEL: 0194-2312439, 9419590857

AL ZAHPOOR INN, Rajbagh,
TEL: 0194-2313552, 9858323376
Email: alzahoorrajbagh@gmail.com
Website: www.al-zahoorimm.com

AMAAN Munawarabad 2470393

AMAAR Boulevard 2462020

AMEERA Bishamber Nagar
9906739206, 9419001860

AMENIA Khayam Road, 2451763, 9419088483

AMIRA Court Road, Lal Chowk, 2457098

AMEERA Bishambernagar, 9906739206

ANANYA Nowpora, 2459328, 2459329

ANGEL'S Indira Nagar,
2465014, 2452829, 2467051

APEX Rajbagh, 2479476, 9469109790,
9906427763 Fax: 2457163,
Email: apex@yahoo.com

APSARA Bishamber Nagar, 2453182, 2475167

ARFAAT Bishamber Nagar, 9469283517, 2454606

ARJUMAND Dalgate, 2485578

AROMA Dalgate 9419001602, 2430756

ASCOT Old Gagribal Road
2451275, 9419055443, 2137457
Email: host_ascot@yahoo.co.in

ARFAT, MA Linkk Rd, Bishamber Nagar
, TEL: 0194-2454606, 9469283517, 9974040880,
9797073123
Email: bisora@hotmail.com,
Website: www.bisoratours.com

ARJUMAND, Dalgate,
Tel. : 0194-2485578, 9596359956, 8713957756
Email: kholid.guroo@gmail.com

ASH-VALE Sonawar, B. B. Cantt.
2474031, 2458771, 9906433525

ASHYA Abi Guzar

ATHENA Khayam Road
2476557, 2478872 9419754319 Fax: 2451352

AZAD Munawarabad
9419748020, 9419001008, 9622808825
Email: hotelazad@yahoo.com

AZHAR Bahadamb Road 2480568, 949754319

AZIZ Boulevard Road
Tel. : 0194-2477675, 2453734, 9419015287
Email: hashirbutt@yahoo.com

BABU Khayam Chowk
2477893, 9906464160, 9906595491

BABU HOTEL & RESTAURANT, Khayam,
Tel. : 0194-2477893, 9906595491, 9796969624

BAHAAR Khayam Road

BENGAL LODGE HOTEL, Kohankhan, Dalgate
0194-2475066, 9419445466
Email: hotelbengallodge@rediffmail.com

BASERA Boulevard Road
9419066670, 2500637, 2500980
Email: whaletravel@yahoo.com

BHARAT Lal Chowk
2456759, 2473598, 9419055992

BI-ZONE Maulana Azad Road
2456759, 2473428, 2482028, 9419008645

BLUE DIAMOND Rajbagh 2451081, 2455304,
9419538344, 9906754685

BLUE MOON Zero Bridge 9906545876, 2474486

BOMBAY GUJARAT Budshah Chowk 2477807

BOULEVARD Boulevard Road,
TEL: 0194-24677052

BROADVIEW New Sectt. Road
2478066, 9419001302

BROADWAY Maulana Azad Road
2459001-10 Lines,
Fax: 0194-2459004, 2482017, 2459001
Email: mail@hotelbroadway.com
Website: www.hotelbroadway.com
Reservation: reservation@hotelbroadway.com

BROWN PALACE Boulevard Road
Tel. : 0194-2500216, 9419006060
Email: info@hotelbrownpalace.com
Website: www.hotelbrownpalace.com

BURJ Khanyar Tel : 0194-2478202, 2478226,
9419004566 Email: contact@hotelburj.in
Website: www.hotelburj.in

BUTTER FLY HOTEL, Khayam,
Tel. : 0194-2483865, 9596553551
Email: butterflyflyhotel@gmail.com
Website: www.hotelbutterfly.net

CARE, Bishember Nagar, Tel. 0194-2458630,
9906711055, 9796711055

CARDOBA Sanat Nagar 9906966304,
9906599223, 2433550, 2430254
Email: hotelcardoba@yahoo.com

CATHEY Dalgate
Tel. : 0919025339, 9796917832,
Email: waniarshid@yahoo.in

CECIL Shalimar
Tel. : 0194-2462221, 9419013874
Email: mehrajdeen@yahoo.com

CENTAUR LAKE VIEW Cheshmashahi
2501236-38, 2501040-45
Fax: 0194-2501145, 2501217
Email: reservation@centaurhotelsrinagar.com
Website: www.centaurhotelsrinagar.com
www.centaurhotels.com

CENTRE POINT Bishambarnagar
Tel: 0194-2485151, 2485353
Fax: 2485353, 2486565, 9419005230
Email: hotelcentrepoin@yahoo.co.in
Website: www.hotelsrinagar.com
www.srinagar-hotels.com

CHACHOO PALACE Dal Lake
Tel. 0194-2485575, 9906820423
Email: hotelchachoopalace@yahoo.co.in

CHANAKYA Indira Nagar
2458574, 2312606

CHAND Old Gagribal Road

CHANGA, Barbarshah,
Tel. : 0194-2475260, 9419004376

CHANGA PALACE , Babadharamdass Rd,
Tel. 0194-2450984, 9419095834, 9906443934,
9419062642, 9906541419
Email: r_hotel_changa_palace@yahoo.com

CITY CENTRE Lal Chowk
Tel. : 0194-2455566, 9419539371
Email: aijaz.citycentre@gmail.com

CITY DEL TOP Boulevard Road
2500621, 9797994227, 9906688821, 9796367393

CITY MAX Indira Nagar

CITY PLAZA Opp. Durganag Mandir, Dalgate
0194-2500771, 24500654, Fax: 2500642,
9906588575
Email: info@cityplazahotel.com
info@cityplazahotel@yahoo.co.in
website: www.cityplazahotel.com

COMFORT-INN Soura

COMFORTS Khayam Road 2474754, 2455042
Email: hotel_comforts@yahoo.com

COMRADE INN, Rajbagh, 0194-2313440,
2310032 Fax: 0194-2310175
Email: info@comradeinn.com
Website: www.comradeinn.com

CORONATION Lal Chowk 2470803, 2457304

CRESCENT Dalgate 2501278, 2478491,
9797199927, 9906790205, 985830856
Email: hotel_crescent@yahoo.com
Website: www.hotelcrescent.com

CROWN Lal Chowk 2472763

DAL RIM Dalgate 0194-2475541, 9419013339,
9906432424
Email: info.dalrim@gmail.com

DALVIEW Boulevard Road

DAR-E-SALAM Ashai Baghn Nageen
0194-2427803, 2427359, 9906609096,
09810899584 Email: info@hoteldaressalam.com

DAR UL TAWHEED ,Rajbagh, 0194-2458787

DAWAR HEEWAN Buchwara 0194-2501493,
9419069992 Fax: 0194-2476957
Email: guroocombines@yahoo.com
Website: www.hoteldawarheaven.com

DAWN 1st Lane Boulevard 2475659, 9906601966,
9419448779, 9419060538

DEW DROP Zero Bridge 9419073713

DHUM DHUM Dalgate, 2450779, 9419014961

DIAMOND Lal Chowk, 2473918, 2479092,
9419032323, 9419026878
Email: hoteldiamond@live.com

DIPLOMAT Old Gagribal, 0194-2458987,
9906508331, 9419409143 Fax: 2501235,
Email: contact@diplomat.in
Website: www.diplomathotel.in

DOLPHIN Buchwara, 1st Lane,
9419002835, 9906427895
Email: mirmuzaffar4@gmail.com

DUKE , Boulevard,
0194-2500779, 2500363, 9906600214
Email: hotelduke.net@gmail.com
Website: www.hotelduke.net.in

EAGLE RESORT , Brein, Nishat,
0194-2461666, 9797225851, 9596126517 Fax:
0194-2462137
Email: eagleresortkashmir@gmail.com
Website: www.eagleresortkashmir.in

DREAM LAND Nishat, 2462919
DUKE Boulevard Road 2500779, 2500363,
Fax: 2500452

ELLORA Wazir Bagh, 2310669, 2310528

EMBASSY Dalgate, 2478207,
2472368, 9796178346, 9796110861, 9830042799,
9830063799, 8803071804

FALAK Wazir Bagh 2310125, 2310417,
9419013466, 9797908089
Email: falak980@yahoo.com

FAYAZ The Bund, Abi Guzar,
Tele/Fax: 0194-2450409, 9419013445
Email: tparvaiz@gmail.com

FIRDOUS Rajbagh, 9419004257
Email: faizi_mush@gmail.com

FORVIEW RESIDENCY, Saidakadal, 9906848106,
9596537524
Email: phumboo@gmail.com

FOUZIA , F S Road, Kohankhan,
9697901815, 9419750433
Email: hotelfouzia@yahoo.com,
reservationhotelfouzia@yahoo.com

FOUR SEASONS Dalgate

GAYLORD Lal Chowk

GEE AAR PALACE Nai Sarak, 2455525

GOLDEN FINGER Bishamber Nagar 2106144

GOLDEN PALM, Munwarabad, 9906432397
Email: mehboob_hussain16@yahoo.com
mehboob_hussain16@gmail.com

GLACIER New Road, Kohankhan
2454418, 9419017993, 9906752777

GOUSIA, Kohankhan, New Road,
2477187, 9086745108, 9419550518, 9906709198
Email: kashmirfiza@gmail.com

GRAND Residency Road 2476583, 2459000

GRAND HABIB Raj Bagh,
9906698180, 2489016, 2489020
Email: mail@hotelgrandhabib.com
Website: www.hotelgrandhabib.com

GRAND HILL, Rajbagh,
9906714747, 9906956061
Website: www.grandhilljk.com

GRAND MUMTAZ 11-Maulana Azad Road 0194-
2452548, 2452538, 2450281
Telefax: 0194-2457391
Email: hotelgrand_mumtaz@yahoo.co.in
Website: www.traveltokashmir.com
www.grandmumtaz.com

GRAND MAHAL, Shalimar Road, Srinagar
Tel: 0194-2461602 / 03, 2464374
Email: info@hotelgrandmahal.com
reservation@hotelgrandmahal.com
Website: www.hotelgrandmahal.com

GRAND HOTEL & RESTAURANT, Residency Rd,
0194-2476583, 2473242 Fax: 2459000
www.grandhotelandrestaurantkashmir.com

GRAND MUSHTAQ Indra Nagar

GRAND OSHEEN Rajbagh, 0194- 2484746,
9906851750, 9419009466, 9419001764

GRAND PALACE
Gupkar Road, 2501001-02, Fax: 2501003 Email:
srinagar@thelalit.com

GRAND QADIR Zero Bridge 9419574211

GRAND SAMAD RESORTS, Munwarabad,
Khayam, 9906880421, 9858811033

GRAND WOODLAND Sanat Nagar Chowk,
9419007986

GRAND TABIYAH, Bishember Nagar,
0194-2470120, 09899390554
Email: booking@hotelgrandtabiyah.com

GREEN HILL Old Gagribal Road 2472902,
9419002455, 9419005108, Fax: 2478738

GREEN LAND Raj Bagh

GREEN MOUNTAIN Sonwar Bagh, 2465955,
9419077008, 9906580743, 9419078655

GREEN PARK Rajbagh, 2452575, 9419001953

GREEN VIEW Dal Lake, Telefax: 2454387,
2457052, 9419001250, 9419004984
Email: ajantaplace@yahoo.com
Website: www.ajantapalace.com

GREEN HILL, Boulevard, 0194-2472902,
9419002455, 9419005108,
Fax: 0194-2478738
Email: hotel_greenhill@yahoo.com
Website: www.greenhill.110mb.com

GREEN WORLD Boulevard Road,
2454928, 2473968

GUL-E-ANAR Raj Bagh 2474403, 9419004770

GULFAM Court Road, Lal Chowk 2458335,
9419016893, 962291161
Email: hotelgulfam@yahoo.com
Website: www.hotelgulfam.com

GULISTAN Raj Bagh 2481818

GULMARG Boulevard Road
250532, 2501034, 2501096

GULROSE Khayam Road
0194-2471121, 9906592968

GULSHAN PALACE, 56, Jawahar Nagar,
9018747426, 9469552955
Email: hotelgulshanpalace@gmail.com
Website: www.hotelgulshanpalace.com

GULSHAN VALLEY Saida Kadal
0194-2420391, 2425292, 9906885096,
9906885097, 9797777780 Fax: 2427671
Email: hotelgulshanvalley@yahoo.com
hotelgulshanvalley@facebook.com

HABIB Wazir Bagh 2432251, 2310335

HABIB CASTLE I. G. Road, Parraypora
2430225, 9419003831, 9906666660
Email: hotel.habib@gmail.com

HAMRAZ Indira Nagar 2467471

HAYAT Kohankhan
0194-2451680, 2457182, 9906811672,
9469673678 Fax: 0194-2481459
Email: hayat1680niyaz@yahoo.co.in

HAPPY DAYS, Rajbagh, 9796955505,
9419070098, 9797185743
Email: therealparadise@rediffmail.com
Website: www.hotelhappydays.in

HEAVEN CANAL Dal Lake
2500943, 2106607, 9419069404, 9419055862 Fax:
0194-2457364
Email: sayeedyousuf@yahoo.com
HEAVEN STAR F. S. Road,
Kohankhan 9797155635

HAYAT, Kohankhan, Telefax: 0194-2451680,
9086010786, 9419720724
Website: www.hotelhayatsrinagar.com

HAVENPOSH 1st Lane Boulevard
477557, 9906463318

HEEVAN, Rajbagh, 0194-2476233, 9419007662,
9906460886 Email: hottelheevan@yahoo.com

HEENA Court Road, Lal Chowk
2452518, 2484573, 9419014843, 9697757531
Email: topmudu212@yahoo.co.in

HEEVAN RESORT Ishbar Nishat, Gupt Ganga
2501323, 2500525, 2500299, 9906680511 Fax:
0194- 2500525
Delhi Off. 011-29837217
Email: info@ahadhotelsandresorts.com Website:
www.ahadhotelsandresorts.com

HELLOAPANAGHAR Kralangri, Nishat 2461752

HERITAGE PALACE Boulevard Road
2501983, 9419770252

HIGHWAY Sonwar Bagh, 0194-2465969,
9419440723, 8803357648, 9419010714
Email: booking@hotelhighway.in
Website: www.hotelhighway.in

HIJRAN F.S. Road, Kohankhan 2481613

HILL SKIRT Buchwara
2473544, 2476615, 2434335, 9906669008,
9469066000 Email: hillskirt@hotmail.com
HOLIDAY PLAZA, Rajbagh, 0194-2489018,
2486248, 9419008711, 9906506435
Email: info@holidayplazakashmir.com
Website: www.holidayplazakashmir.com

HILL STAR Buchwara 2472729, 2479724,
9419522487

HIRA Kohankhan, Dalgate
2478547, 9906817275, 9906494566

HOLIDAY HEAVEN 3-Nageen Road 2420282

HOLIDAY INN & REST. Dalgate
0194-2500458, 9858381259

HOLLY NIGHT Dalgate 2107527, 2451472,
09906735701, 09330835461
Email: hotelholynight@yahoo.co.in

HUMZA Old Gagribal Road
Telefax: 0194-2500849, 2500857, 9906855999
Email: incredible_kashmir@yahoo.com

IKHWAN Bishamber Nagar
2477386, 2477997

IMPERIAL LAKE VIEW Nehru Park
2500046, 2452805, 9419091514
9419476279 Fax: 0194-2500046
Email: contact@hotelimperiallakeview.com

INDRA Indira Nagar 9419003186, 2466484

INTERNATIONAL Sonwar Bagh
2501190, 2501250, 2500284, 2501153
Fax: 0194-2501157
Email: info@hotelinternationalsonwarbagh.com
Web. www.hotelinternationalsonwarbagh.com

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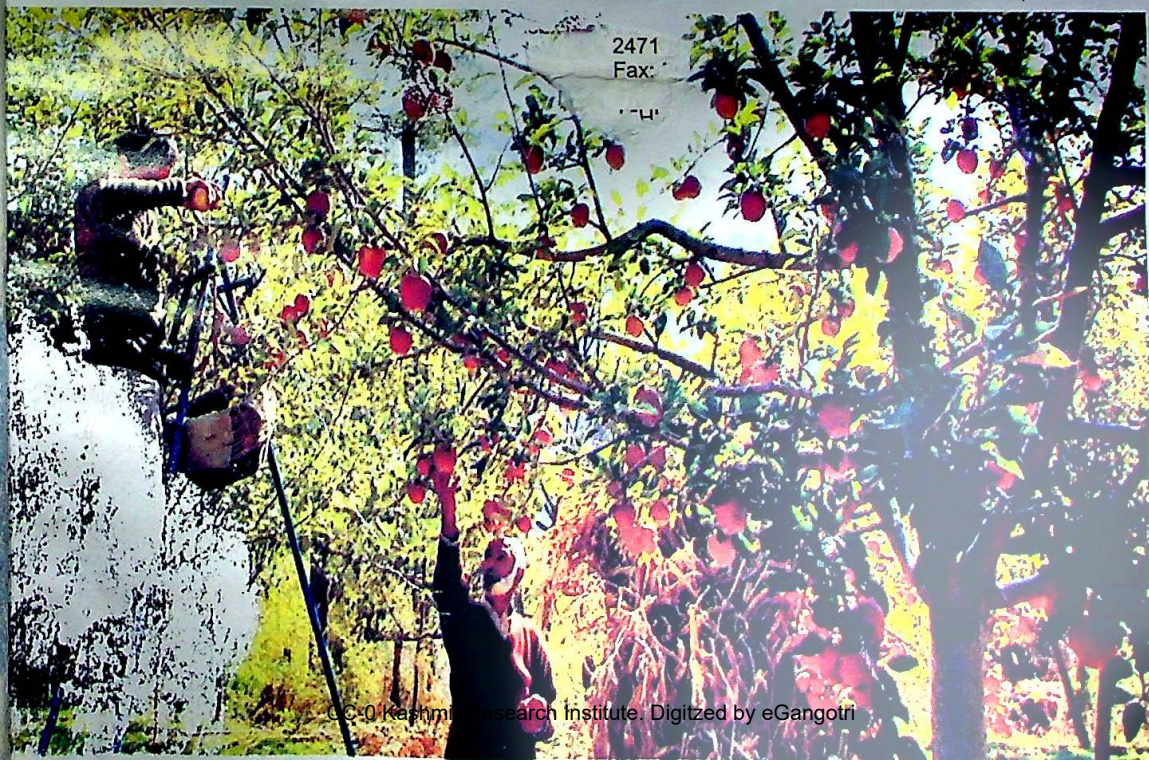
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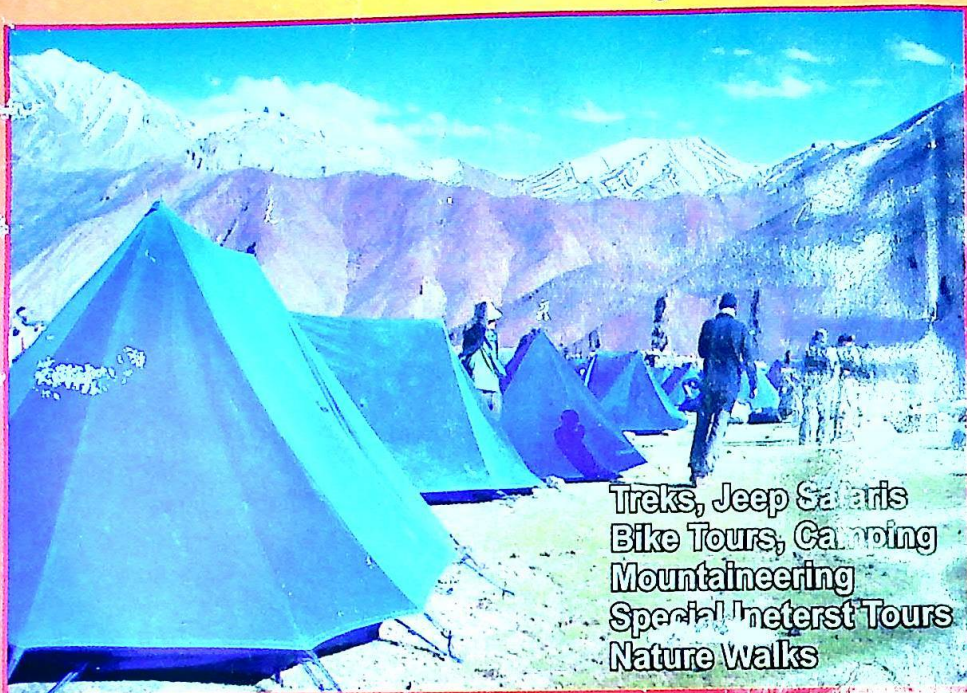
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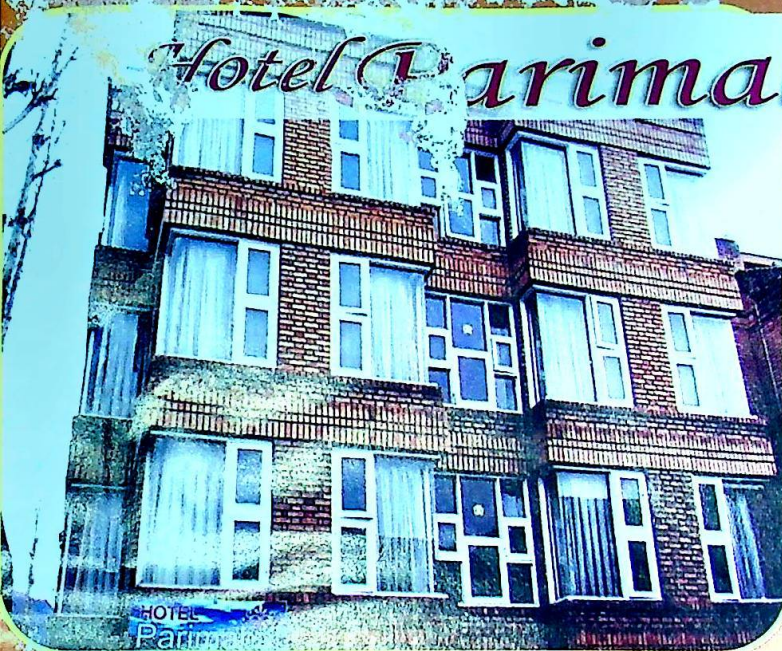
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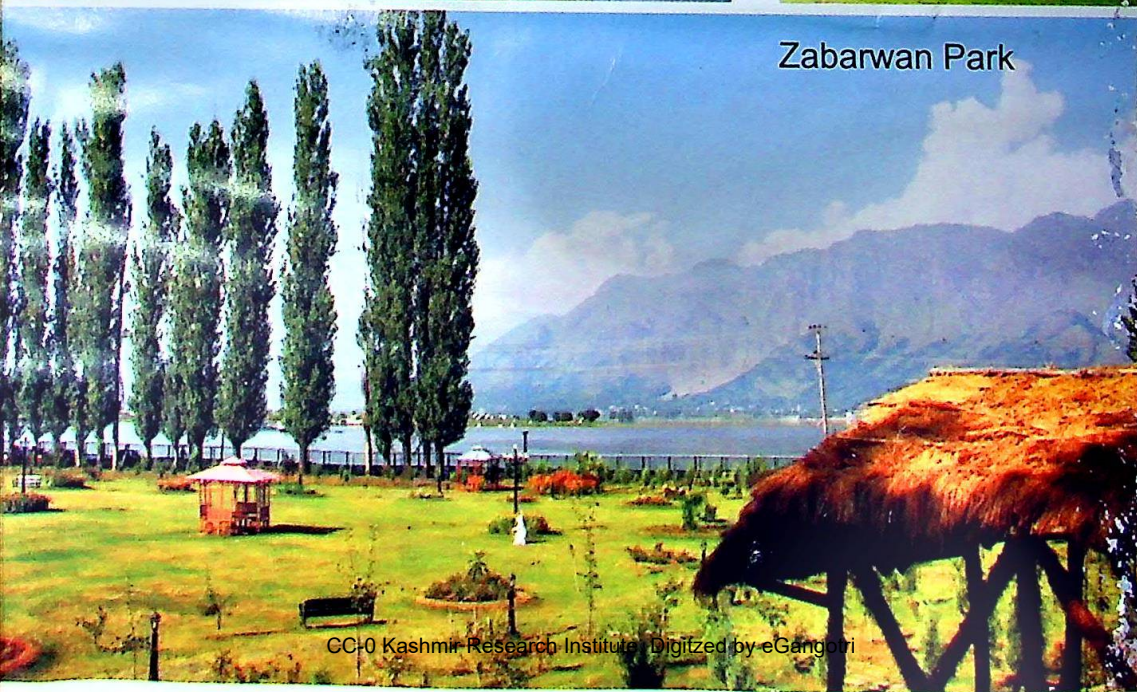
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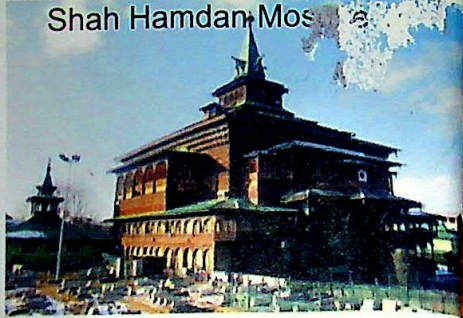


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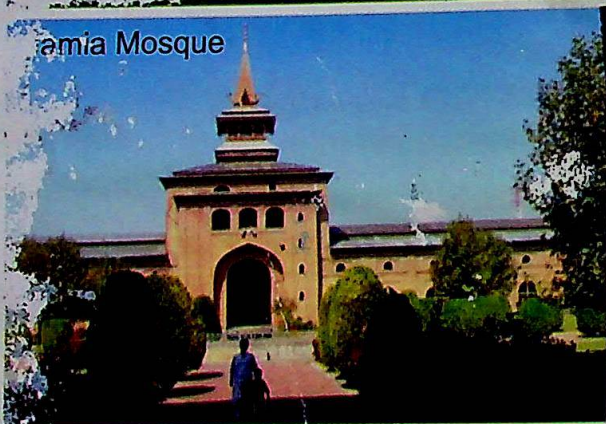
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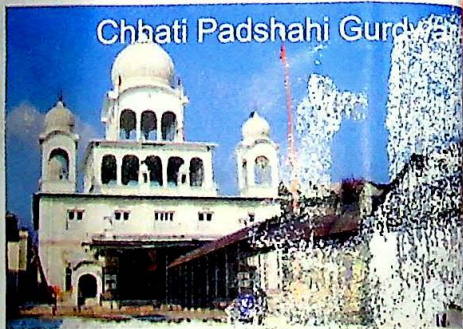
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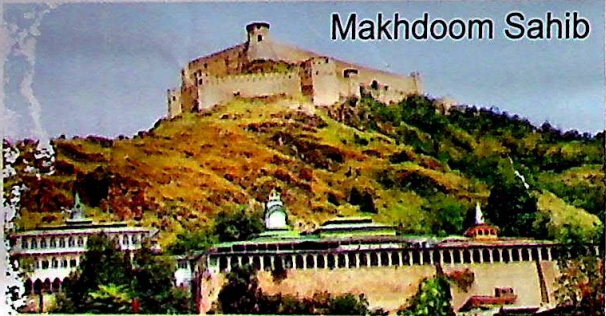
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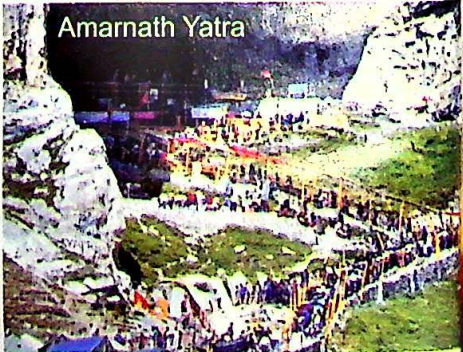
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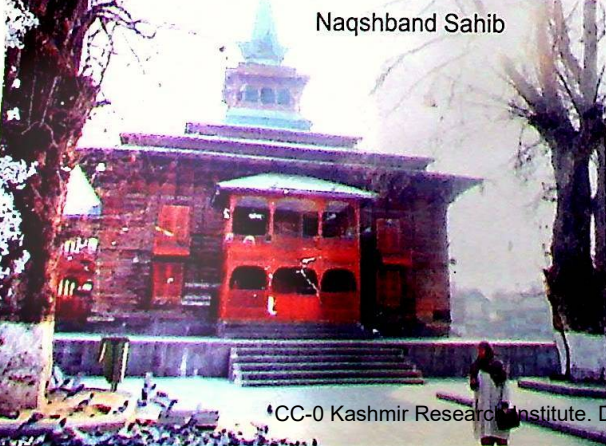
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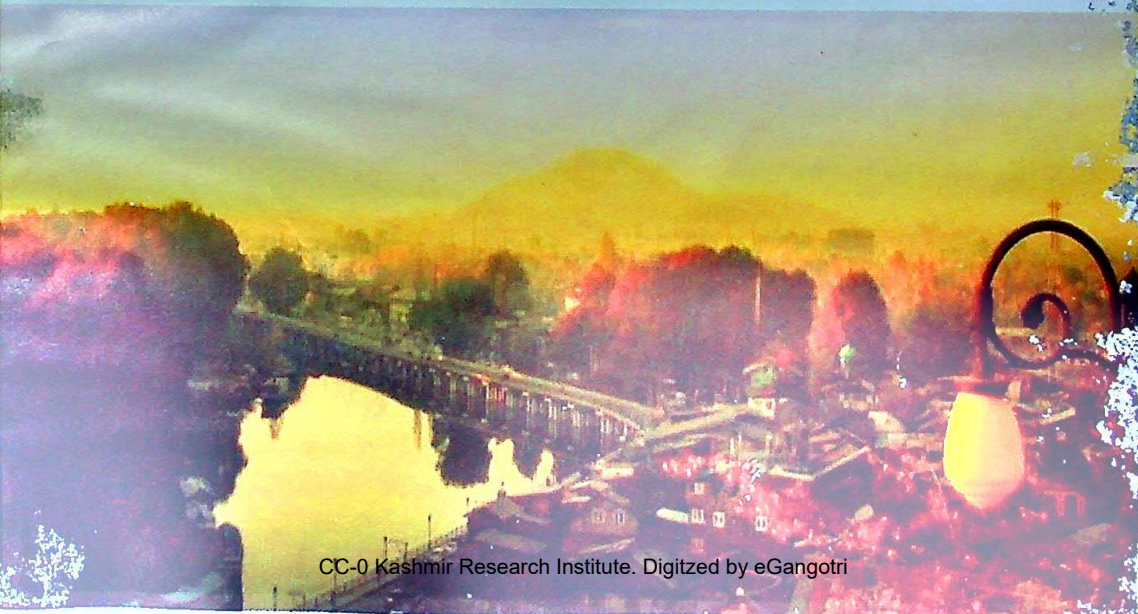
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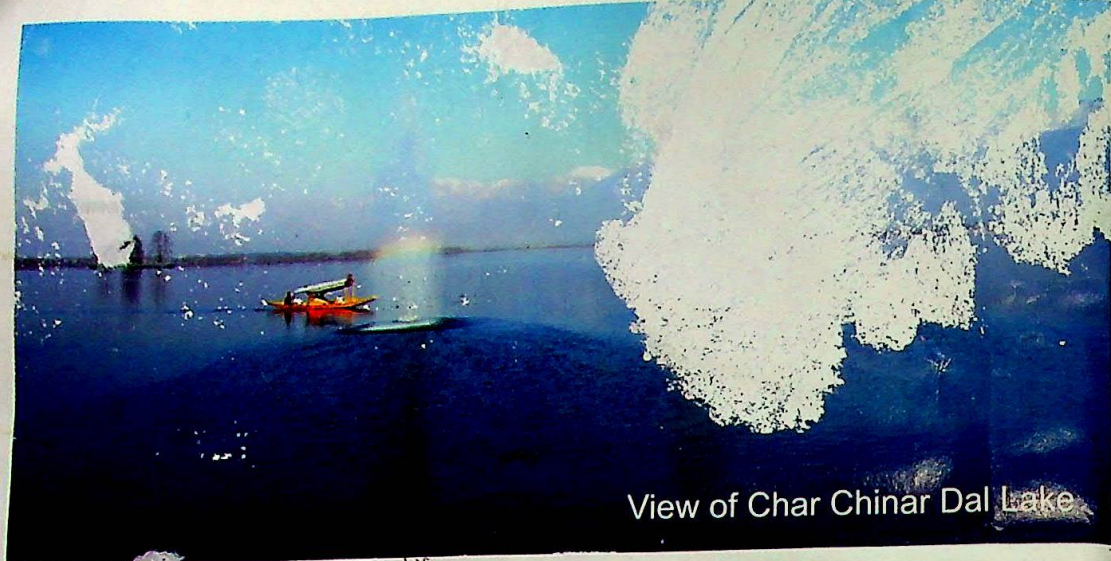




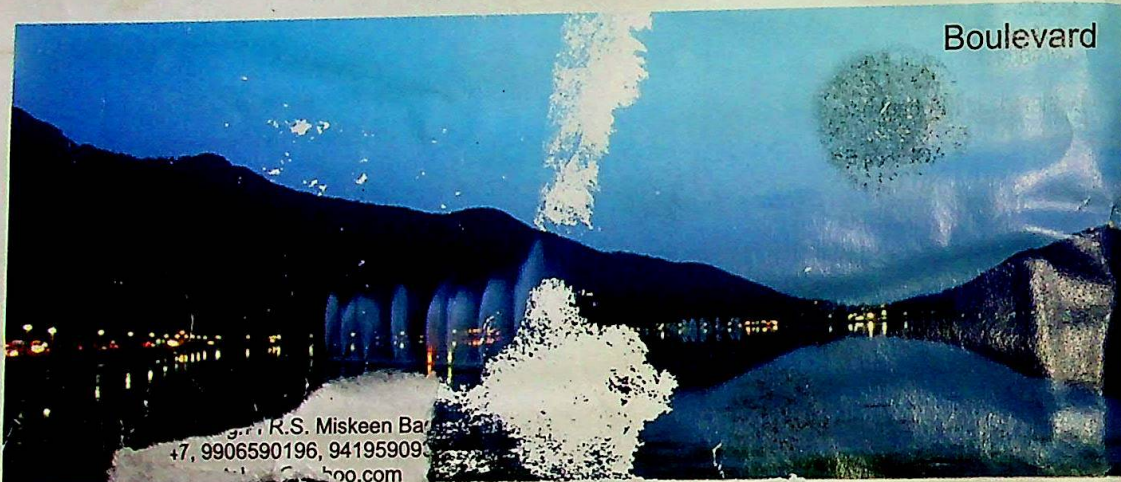
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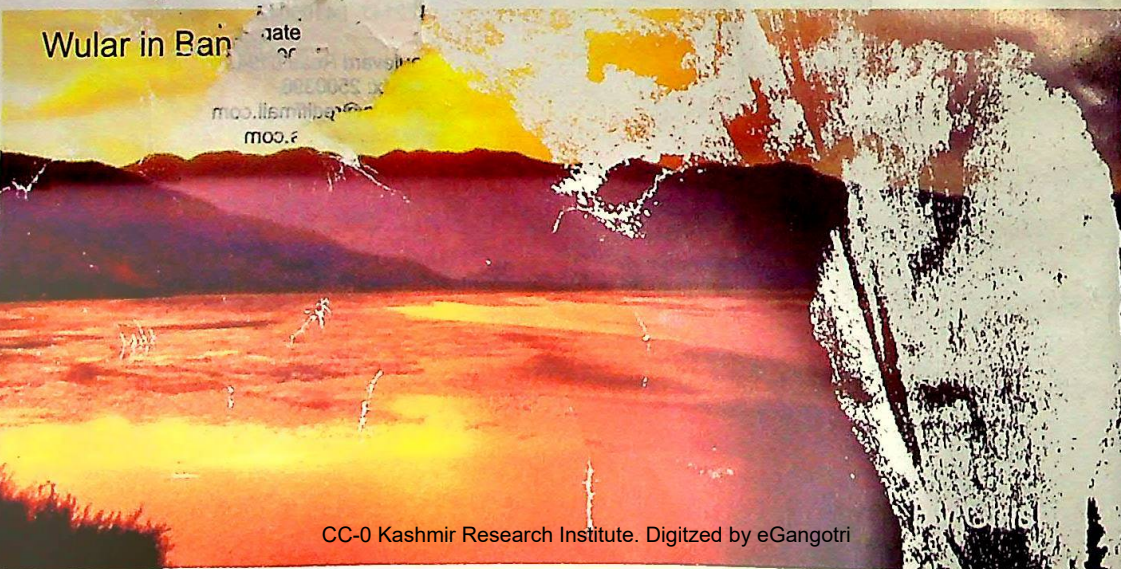




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Srinagar, Tel: 2501698, Cell: 9419019922,
Email: junaidtravels@yahoo.com,
www.junaidtravels.com

STAR QUEEN , Abi Buchwara, Main Road,
Dalgate, Behind Hotel Akbar Srinagar.
Tel: 2133196, Cell: 9906787869
Email: starqueenguesthouse@gmail.com

RUBINA, First Boulevard Lane, Buchwara Chowk,
Dalgate, Srinagar. Tel: 2480220,
Cell: 09906565098, 9906545900
Email: rubinahotel@gmail.com,
www.rubinaguesthouse.com

HOTEL LUCKY KASHMIR, Iqbal Colony, In front
River Jehlum, Rajbagh Srinagar
Cell: 9906816726 , 9797315131
Email: shabirdharma@gmail.com

Where to Eat

Though Wazwan has its real taste at a Kashmiri wedding or any function, one can also relish this food at any good hotel or restaurant at Residency Road (Grand Restaurant and Ahdoos) or at Boulevard. Vivanta by Taj Dal View Srinagar also serves authentic Wazwan food with traditional experience. The continental food is also a speciality of all the restaurants particularly on the Residency Road, the Bund and Boulevard. For typical Indian vegetarian food, there are Restaurants & Dhabs on Boulevard and Dalgate area where one can be delighted with variety of Punjabi, Gujrati or pure vegetarian food. Most of hotels, restaurants and houseboats provide every type of food from continental to Indian vegetarian. Natus on boulevard is the favourite pure vegetarian fast food joint for Indian travelers. For Chinese food lovers can relish the food at Jade Dragon restaurant at Vivanta by Taj. The Lhasa at Boulevard and Nunkun Restaurant near Nehru park are also favorite restaurants of visitors for Chinese delicacies.

Wine: Just few luxury hotels in the city have internal bars where wine of all the brands can be savored comfortably, for rest of the places you will have to be content with having it inside your room or sometime even arranging a beer or wine from the wine shops on boulevard and near cantonment area in Batwara.

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Where to Eat in SRINAGAR (Some Restaurants, Cafes and more)

AHUJA PUNJABI RASOI Boulevard Road

AIRWAY Humhama Chowk, Budgam 9419070461

ALBEENA DHABA Gogjibagh 9906432111

ALKA SALK Residency Road
2474696, 9419010045

AL-KHADIM Karan Nagar Chowk
9906591703, 9797265619

AL-MADINA RESTAURANT Bye-Pass Chowk,
Nowgam 2436762, 9419085236

AL-ZAIQA RESTAURANT Khayam Chowk
2100886, 2456677, 9906678333

AMAN VAISHNO DHABA Court Road,
Lal Chowk 9906489448, 2441408, 9906489448,
9086974197

AMAR HINDU DHABA Batwara Chowk
AMRIT VAISHNO DHABA Lal Chowk
2475929, 2477038

AMRITSARI VAISHNO DHABA Gogjibagh
9858382955, 9858390167

ANAPURNA VAISHNO DHABA
Bishamber Nagar 2421110

APNA DHABA Dalgate, 9906725974, 9906725974
Email: apnadhaba@yahoo.com

ARAB RESTAURANT Zaina Kadal, 2457510,
9419010045, 9622528249, 9797272312

ASSANA Radio Colony, Rajbagh

AVENUE RESTAURANT Boulevard Road

BABA MUSLIM DHABA Hazratbal, 2423929 (pp)

BABA RESTAURANT Dalgate
9469103188, 9906460310, 2450779

BAGHDADI Shalteng 2497310

BANANA LEAF Khanyar 2478226
BIKANERI BHOJNLYA, Boulevard 9796265230

BIRYANI HUT , Zero Bridge, Rajbagh,
9906548080,
www.facebook.com/biryanihutrajbaghkashmir

BISM E ALLAH NOORAN , Drangbal, Pampore,
9906641224
Email: jimmeydar@yahoo.in

- BHAT COFFEE SHOP** Regal Lane,
Muni. Building 9906685438
- BLOUCH RESTAURANT** Soura
2405765, 2402041, 9797186443
- BLUE JUNCTION REST.** Munawarabad
- CAFÉ CHINAR** Wazir Bagh
9906897694, 9419025062
- CAFÉ ROBUSTA** Maulana Azad Road 2472764
- CHANDINI CHOWK CHAT** Durganag
- DACHIGAM RESTAURANT** Dachigam, Harwan
0194-2462276, 9858998438
- DAR,** Near T.R.C. 2453745, 9419060435,
9697303606
- DHARMA VAISHNO DHABA** Durganag
9906580644
- DILKASH** Panthachowk 9419023307
- DILSHAD MUSLIM DHABA** Red Cross Road
9419080380, 9469015277
- DIPLAZ CAFÉ** Residency Road
- DOGRA DHABA** Main Road, Dalgate
- ELIFISTON CATERERS** Nowhatta Chowk
2482537, 2457981
- ERINA FAST FOOD** Residency Road 2481733
- ERUM RESTAURANT** Shah Cinema
- FIRDOUS RESTAURANT** Firous Cinema
- FIRST NOORANI REST.** Drangbal, Pampore
95-1933-214301, 9419030262
- FOOD CITY RESTAURANT**
Main Market, Soura
0194- 2402999, 9906706404, 9419001109
Email: manzoorshah99@yahoo.com
- GARIB NAWAZ DHABA** Gonikhan Market
9797943687
- GOLDEN DREAMS FAST FOOD**
Anarkali Market, Baba Demb
- GRAND GRILLS RESTAURANT** Bemina
0194-2494663, 9797030575
Email: grandgrills@gmail.com
- GRAND MUGHAL DARBAR BAKERY &
RESTAURANT** Residency Road
2458455, 2483472, 9419002333, 9419001777
- GULPOSH RESTAURANT** Pantha Chowk
- GULFAM RESTAURANT** Seki Dafar
9906745801, 09858182767
- HAT-TRICK FOODS** Rajbagh
0194-2451422, 9419008864, 9797793177,
9205056712, Email: hattrickfoods@yahoo.com
- HAVE IT , M. A Link Road ,** Munwarabad, Srinagar.
Cell: 9419008748,
- HAYAT MUSLIM REST.** Zaina Kadal
2475909, 9419086547, 9419500764
- HEAVEN STAR REST.** H. S. High Street
9419058143
- HIDE-N-SHEEN REST.** State Bank Lane, R. Road
- HIDE-OUT RESTAURANT** Lambert Lane
0194-2470596, 9796368895
- HIGHWAY RESTAURANT** Bye-Pass, Nowgam
2435208, 9419065055
- HOLLYWOOD CAFÉ** Residency Road
0194-2471007, 9419004900
Email: hollywoodfoodz@gmail.com
- HOST RESORT** Lambert Lane, R. Road
- HOT-SPOT RESTAURANT** Residency Road
- HUSTLE-N-BUSTLE REST.** Rajbagh 9796335923
- ICE-FEAST CAFÉ** Rajbagh
- ICE-FERN RESTAURANT** Boulevard Road
2500896, 2500875, 9419476663
- ICY-HOUSE CAFÉ** Jawahar Nagar, 09906954539
- IMRAN CAFETERIA** Khayam Chowk 2470895
- INDIAN VAISHNO BHOJANALYA** Gurdwara
Market, Lal Chowk 2457098, 9419003744,
2400003, 9419462874
- INSHA RESTAURANT**
Lal Bazar 9906676975
- IQBAL RESTAURANT** Buchpora
0194-2400003, 9419462874, 9622810273
- JEE ENN & SONS RESTAURANT**
Maulana Azad Road 0194-2458268
- JEEL VIEW RESTAURANT**
Habak 9906540287
- KAMAL VAISHNO PUNJABI DHABA**
Pantha Chowk

KAPOOR VAISHNO BHOJANALAYA
Gonikhan Market 2461606

KAREEMA RESTAURANT
Residency Road 2475959

KASHMIR CHINAR
Zero Bridge
2458922, 2480469, 9906699860

KAHWA
Boulevard, 0194-2500460, 9796737144,
9419808026
Email: kahvadrestaurant@gmail.com

KASHMIR TOURIST REST
Maulana Azad Road
2473878, 0194-2458922, 2480469, 9906699860

KHAKSAR MUSLIM REST
Red Cross Road
9906424713, 2451037

KHANA KHAZANA
Hari Singh High Street 2476435

KHYBER CAFETERIA
Khayam Chowk, 9906786900
Email: nadeem.bhat9@gmail.com,
nadeem.bhat9@yahoo.com

KING PIZZA REST. Rajbagh 2451081

KRISHNA COFFEE HOUSE
Durganag
9419449347, 9419113849, 2454775

KRISHNA VAISHNO DHABA
Durganag
2454775, 9419113849, 9419449347

LAKE FOOD PLAZA
Nowgam, byepass
2431500

LAKSHMI VAISHNO BHOJANALAYA
Boulevard Road 2474152

LALA RESTAURANT
Batmaloo
2453809, 9419900749,
9419025522, 9797000020

LALA SHEIKH & SONS REST.
Residency Road
8713866267

LAZEEZ RESTAURANT
Safa Kadal
2450068, 9906449590

LHASA RESTAURANT
Boulevard Road
2500517, 9906546181

LINZ-DE-CAFÉ RESTAURANT
Residency Road 990692071

LUCKY VAISHNO DHABA
Kohankhan, Dalgate

LUNCHEON RESTAURANT Sonwar

MADINA RESTAURANT
Neelam Chowk
2482353, 9906800426, 9205132030

MALIK (WAZWAN)
Pampore 9906810020

MALIK RESTAURANT
Shiraz Cinema

MANPASAND PUNJABI RASOI REST.
Boulevard Road

MAZDA CATERERS
Poloview
0194-2484605, 2484606
Fax: 2472098, 9419009827
Email: mazdatravelaskashmir@yahoo.com

MEHFIL RESTAURANT
Residency Road
0194-2476998

MIR BROTHERS CATERERS
Amarsingh Club, Sonawar
2450651, 9419465007

MIR CAFETERIA
Khayam Cinema

MIR RESTAURANT
Residency Road

MIR SONS CAFÉ
Lal Chowk 2475115

MODERN SWEETS
Residency Road

MODERN VEGETARIAN REST.
Boulevard Road

MOONLAND RESTAURANT
K.U. Road, Hazratbal
2422803, 9419040293, 9419080622

MORNING SUN RESTAURANT
Opp. Municipality, Karan Nagar

MOTI MAHAL
Shalimar, 0194-2464010, 9419383616
Telefax: 0194-2464072
Email: nishatfoods@gmail.com
Nishatview@rediffmail.com

- MUGHAL DARBAR,**
Residency Rd,
0194-2458455, 2480007, 9419002333
Email: kaiser2333@gmail.com
Website: www.mughaldarbar.in
- MUGHLAI TANDOORI,**
Karan Nagar, 9796530695
Email: mughlaitandoor@gmail.com
- MUBARAK'S ICE-BERG**
Residency Road 2475120
- MUMMY PLEASE**
Lal Chowk
9858458820, 9419004501
- MUMMY PLEASE**
Residency Road
9858458820, 9906767359
- NAAZ CAFETERIA**
Naaz Cinema
NATHU'S SWEETS Boulevard Road
2475522
- NATIONAL RESTAURANT**
Near S.M.H.S. Hospital 2458914
- NAYA DARBAR**
Pampore, 9697322906
Email: jimmeidar@yahoo.in
- NEW DILSHAD DHABA Rambagh Bala,**
9797256679
Email: sameer.degloo@gmail.co
- NEW KHAKSAR RESTAURANT**
Rambagh Bala 9906607775
- NEW KRISHNA,**
Durganag, 9419014707, 9419113849, 9419449347
- NEW KISHAN DHABA**
Old Gagribal Road
- NEW LALA SHEIKH & SONS REST.**
Residency Road
0194-2455419, 9419530652
- NEW MAKDONALD'S REST.** Iqbal Park, A.P. Road
2313844, 9419009025, 9419003777
- NEW MUGHAL DARBAR REST.** Main Chowk,
Budgam 255557
- NEW SABRINA RESTAURANT**
The Bund, Khidmat Complex
9419512728
Email: zahidsharief@yahoo.com
- NEW SAKOON RESTAURANT**
Madina Complex, Kaksarai 9419013482
- NEW SHAHENS SHAH REST.**
H.S.H. Street, 9419015302
- NEW SOFTY CORNER** Nishat Garden
2461552, 9906654167
- NEW TAJ MAHAL RESTAURANT**
Batmaloo
- NEW ZAIQA RESTAURANT**
Kaksarai Chowk 990538628, 9906566888
- NEW ZUM ZUM DHABA**
Khanyar, Shiraz Chowk
2458995, 2427627
- NOOR RESTAURANT**
Drugjan, Dalgate 2453404
- NOORANI RESTAURANT**
Karan Nagar Chowk
9906566955, 9797978167
- NU-NEELAM RESTAURANT**
Neelam Cinema 2470592, 2477061
- OOPS ICE CREAM & SOFT DRINKS**
Regal Chowk
9419463751, 9906678029
- PAUL CANTEEN B. Panth Hosp.,**
B.B. Cantt., Sonwar 9419902474
- PINCER VEGETARIAN DHABA**
Boulevard Road
- PINK DALE RESTAURANT**
Khidmat Complex, The Bund
PURAN PUNJABI DHABA
Gurdwara Market, Lal Chowk
2470959, 2451044, 9419073588, 9419183128
- PUNJABI RASOI** Boulevard Road 9906827371
- PUNJABI VAISHNO DHABA** Maharaja Bazar
- PUNJABI VAISHNO DHABA**
Boulevard Road 9419000379
Email: pvdadil@gmail.com
- RAFIQ CAFETERIA**
Khayam Chowk 9797990657
- R. KRISHNA DHABA** Old Gagribal Road
- RAMBLE RESTAURANT** Dalgate
- RATTAN'S BAR BEQUE**
Gurdwara Market, Lal Chowk
2455922, 2433689, 941950799
- REST POINT**
Bemina 9419010401

ROSE MOUNT RESTAURANT 2482752

ROYAL RESTAURANT

Amira Kadal

2474431, 9419001686, 9419013897, 9419016982

SABREENA RESTAURANT

Khanyar, Shiraz Road

SAKOON RESTAURANT

Near Shalimar Garden 0194-2463237,
9419433177, 9797125438

SAMCI RESTAURANT

Residency Road

0194-2450533

Email: www.samcirestaurant.com

SANNA CAFÉ

Residency Road 2474578

SEHAR RESTAURANT

Hyderpora

SENIORITA RESTAURANT Boulevard Road

SHABAZ RESTAURANT

Main Chowk, Soura

0194-2401999, 2402999, 9419001109

Email: manzoorshah99@yahoo.com

SHABNAM RESTAURANT

Neelam Chowk

SHAH CAFETERIA

Nehru Park Chowk 9419057768

SHAKTI SWEETS

Residency Road 2474607

SHAMYANA RESTAURANT

Boulevard Road 0194-2453360

Website: www.shamyana.net

SHARMA VAISHNO DHABA

Batwara Chowk 2465772

SHERAZ RESTAURANT

Maulana Azad Road 9419011957

SHILTON RESTAURANT

Residency Road

SHIVA VAISHNO DHABA

Durganag 9419538509

SHOWKEEN DHABA Batmaloo

SKYLARK RESTAURANT

Khayam Chowk

SNOWMAN RESTAURANT

Sanat Nagar Chowk 2431271, 9797076159

SOFTY CORNER Nishat Garden 2461552,
24652237, 9906663413

SUN-N-SHADE DELHI DI RASOI, Boulevard
Road, 0194-2453361, 9419778141

Email: kausarnadim@yahoo.com

TANDOORI NIGHTS RESTAURANT

Nowgam, Bypass,

0194-2441245, 8803906337

TAO CAFÉ RESTAURANT

Residency Road, Near G.P.O.

2472230, 9469109494, 2479576

TASTE-INN RESTAURANT

Hawal 9858424293

TAWAKAL RESTAURANT Saraf Kadal

TIME OUT

Ess Aay Complex, Baghat Chowk 9858383873

TREAT RESTAURANT

Rawalpura, Bye-Pass, Sanat Nagar

2435152, 2435410, 9419003910

UDAAAN Rajbagh 9906692925

VIANDS RESTAURANT

F.S. Complex,

Regal Chowk, 0194-2481148

VIMPY RESTAURANT

11-Poloview 2478645

VISHAL VAISHNO DHABA

Durganag 9906588995, 990654660

WATERFALL RESTAURANT

F. S. Complex, Regal Chowk A, 2472716

YING YANG (CHINESE)

Budshah Chowk

ZAQA RESTAURANT

Rambagh Bridge

2435873, 9419761717, 9906855151

ZEENAT RESTAURANT

Antha Chowk

ZERO LITTLE HUT CAFÉ

Zero Bridge 9858336768

ZIYAFAT FAST FOOD,

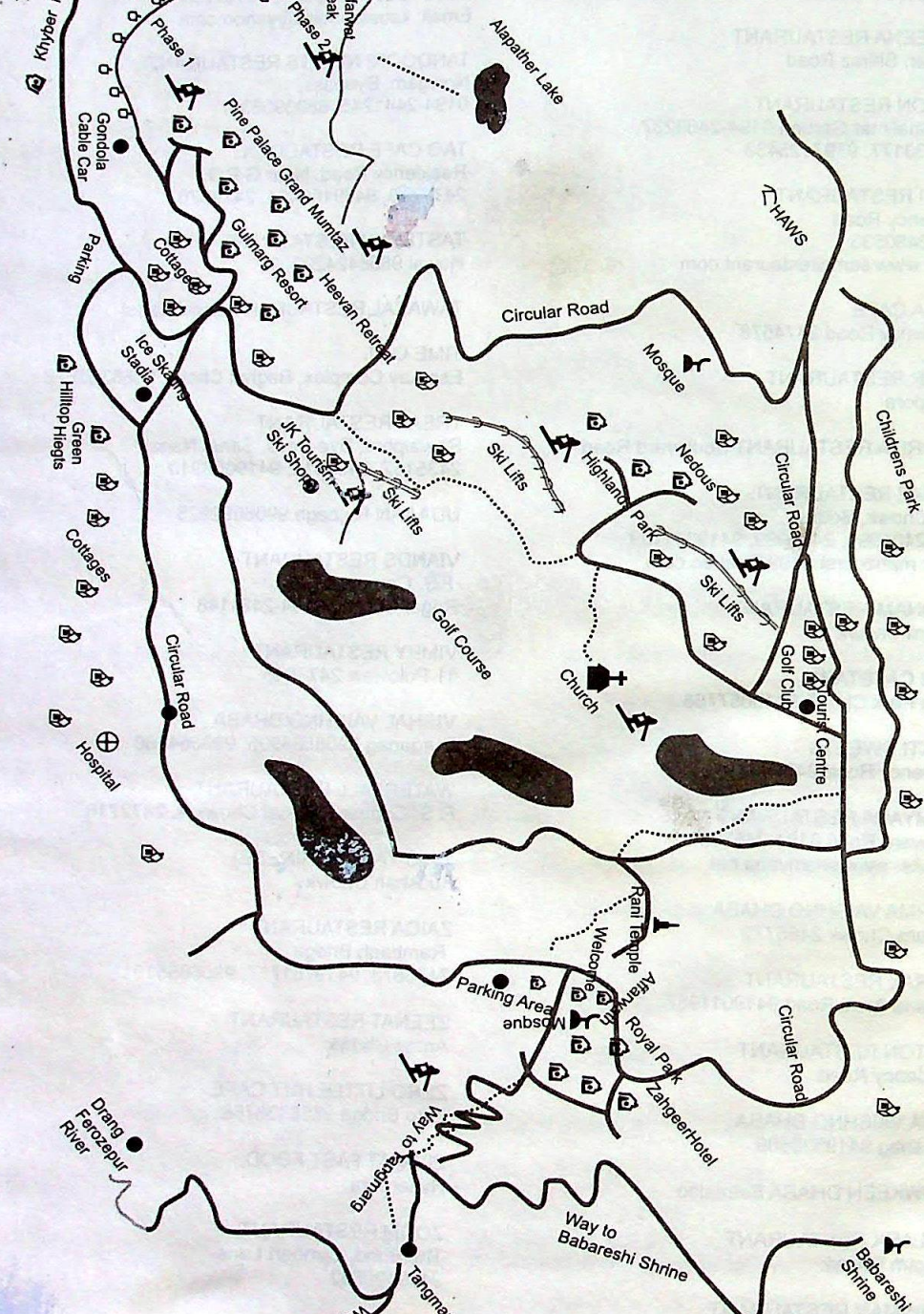
Hyderpora

ZOOM RESTAURANT

The Bund, Lambert Lane

9419420562

g





Gulmarg Gondola

The Pine Palace Resort

Gulmarg, Kashmir



Luxurious Centrally Heated Rooms , Suites and Lounges,
Sansha Spa & Wireless internet in common areas.



Double Bed Room



Suite



Restaurant

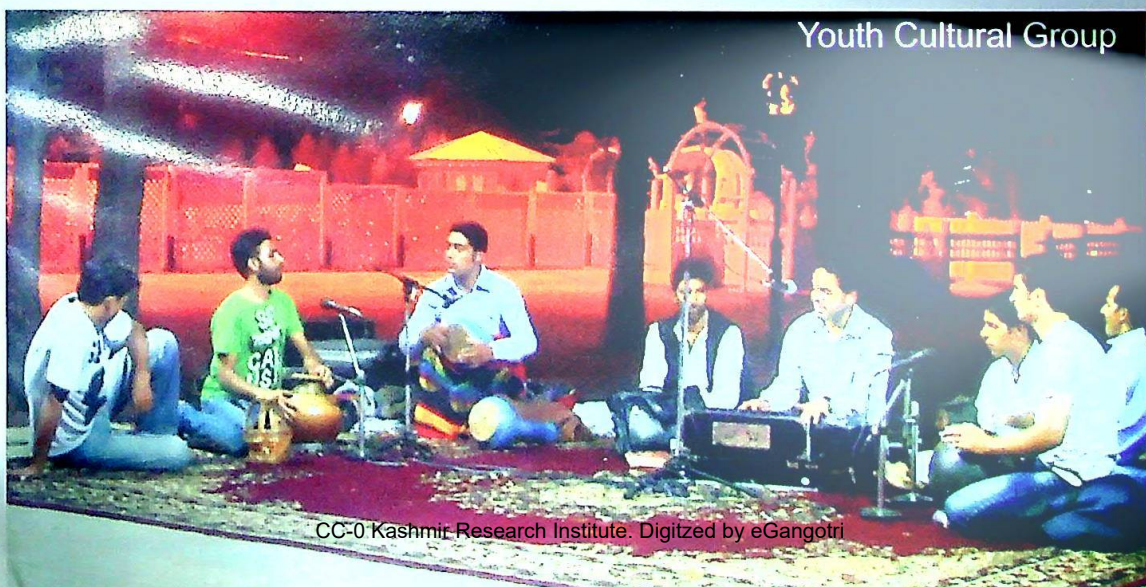
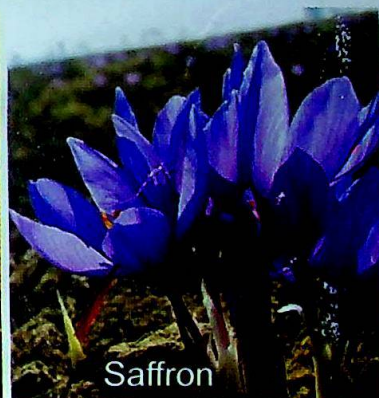
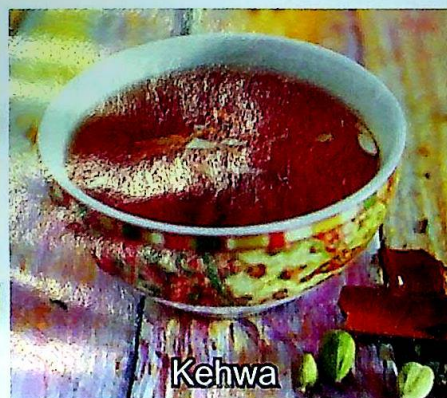


Ski Lounge

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Hotel of Gulmarg**

Rejuvenate Your Senses

Pine Palace Avenue, Gulmarg, Kashmir. Telefax: +91-1954-254466, 254504
email: pinepalacegulmarg@yahoo.com www.pinepalaceresort.com

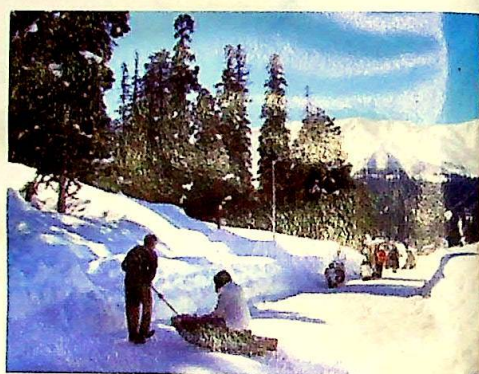




Expert Challenges at Affarwath

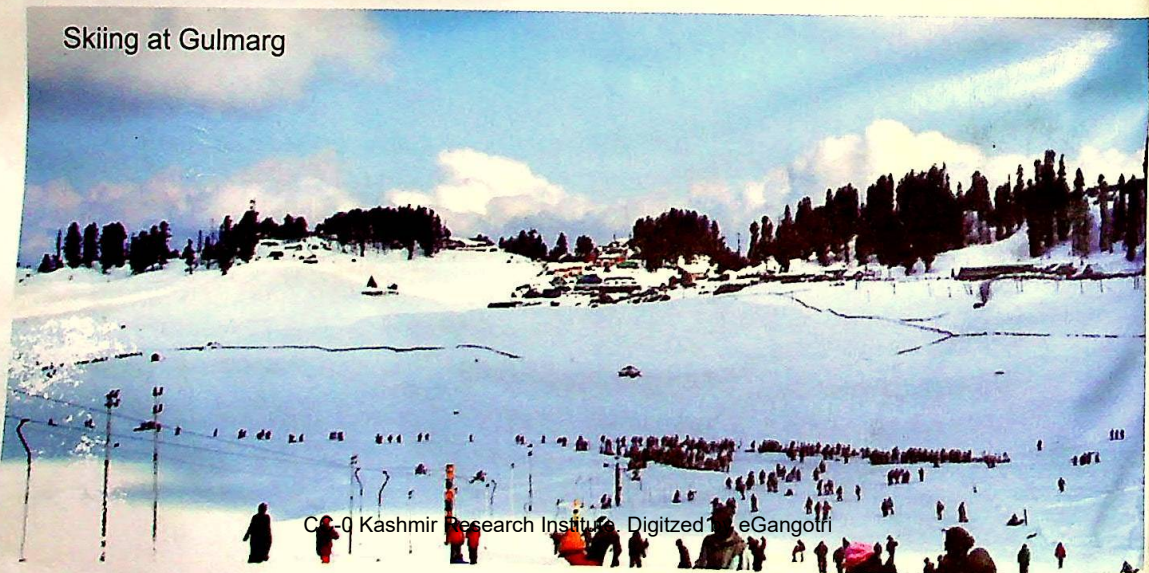


Amateurs training at base Slopes



Sledge riders having fun

Skiing at Gulmarg



GULMARG

Alt : 2730 meters Km: 52

Gul means flower and marg a meadow, this "Meadow of Flowers" has abounding colorful wild flowers during summer all around its bowl shaped gorge, enclosed by the mountains covered under dense pine forests with top under snow till mid-summer. Amidst the meadow is a **Golf Club** established in 1902 with Capt. John Hill as first Honorary Secretary. The 8-hole golf course of 1892 has developed into an 18-hole golf course par 72, where competitions are held every summer. It is the highest golf course in the world. Gulmarg is believed to be discovery of lovers-Emperor Jehangir would visit with his beloved Noor Jehan and similarly it was the escape destination of romance for Yousuf Shah Chak and his beloved Habba Khatoon. In 16th century Yusuf Shah Chak changed its name from Gaurimarg (Path of Gauri, wife of Lord Siva) or Gurmarg (Horses meadow) to Gulmarg 'the meadow of flowers', making it a destination of Royal lovers. The passionate summer and adventurous winter makes Gulmarg most favorite destination among tourists and locals.

Gondola Cable Car, has first phase up to Kongdori, 3045 meters, second phase connects Kongdori with Affarwat, 4060 meters, a ridge that offers breathtaking view in all seasons and adventurous slopes for downhill skiing / snowboarding. Gulmarg is famous among skiers for its unique powdery snow, natural slopes and suitable combination of snow with sunshine. British Army Officers, Maj. Metcarr and Maj. Hadow, set up the first Ski Club of India at Gulmarg in 1927.

The J&K Youth Services & Sports and Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering organize Ski training camps from Basic to Advance courses for which advance booking is required from

their offices in Gulmarg and Srinagar. Courses usually start from December onwards when substantial snow is present in the Ski area. The Ski equipment is available at the Govt owned Ski shops and the private ones. The ski lifts are available for the beginners and intermediate skiers. The Advance and experts skiers and snowboarders use the higher altitude slopes in Apharwat range near Kongdori. Special rate Ski passes are also available for Gondolas for the phase I and phase II. World famous skier Sylvan Sudan introduced Heli-skiing in Gulmarg in 1987 making it Asia's first Heli-skiing resort, the team of same group is now introducing new destinations for heli-skiing in Kashmir.

White Christmas celebration, New Year and winter festival including ski competitions are held every year in Gulmarg with much fan-fare. Gulmarg gets snowfall periodically from November to April, sometimes above 14 ft and mostly gets the first and last snowfall of the Valley. At Kongdori and Affarwat snow remains till mid June where Sledging is great fun for the visitors.

Gulmarg : Best time to visit: Round the year.

Places of Interest

Gulmarg has an old St. Mary's Church atop a meadow built in 1902. One can easily walk upto the Church or take the road instead via Club. Rani Temple near the main market at the entry point is most fascinating, its presence atop a mound with its red colour stupa symbolizes itself with the soothing valley. Maharaja Palace a few meters away from Circular Road is another attraction for the visitors. A newly developed Lake and Children's park is quite captivating.

Alapathar Lake, 3843 m, 13km, is a one-day trek from Gulmarg via Khilan marg,

where as on reaching at Affarwat by Gondola Phase II its just 1.5 km walk. During summertime nature lovers can trek to this crystal clear lake surrounded by the mountains.

Tangmarg, 32 km from Srinagar, is the famous stopover enroute Gulmarg. The road (13km) from Tangmarg moves through pine trees and lofty mountains. 06 km trek from Tangmarg to Gulmarg is an exciting route for the trekkers, the local people usually use the trek for downhill journeys and when the road is blocked due to heavy snow. During winter warm clothes, long shoes, gloves and rain proofs are available on hire at the shops, which have to be returned after coming back from Gulmarg. This is also a check point for all the vehicles passing on towards Gulmarg. People of Tangmarg and nearby villages have a major role in servicing the tourists being the habitation to Gulmarg.

Ziarat of Baba Rishi, 8 km from Gulmarg, is the famous shrine of noted Muslim saint, Baba Payam-ud-Din RA (AD 1475) who belonged to a noble family from Srinagar. Baba renounced the world and became disciple of Sheik-Noor-ud-Din Noorani. The road off the Tangmarg-Gulmarg route leads through the dense pine tree to this famous shrine where people from different areas of the valley come to perform the first haircut (Zarra Kasni) of their new born child. Another route at Gulmarg entry point leads to the shrine which is suitable for only light the vehicles during fine weather.

Drang, 3.5km from Tangmarg, a motorable road leads to this famous picnic spot. A day trip from Gulmarg can be made for enjoyment at Ferozepur nallah 'river'. Once a Tax collection point "Guzarwan" while passing into the Valley, "Drang" has now become a favorite tourist spot among visitors who enjoy a get-together over lunch along the riverside.

Nagin Valley : J&K Tourism Department has recently openen Botpathri (or Bota Pathri) in Nagin Valley for tourists which, at an altitude of 9000 ft between Ferozepur nallah and Nighli nallah in the Nagin valley, Botapathri is 10 Kms from Gulmarg, 5 kms from the Line of Control.

Ringawari: An upcoming tourist spot 17 km - from Tangmarg near a village called Badarkoot (off the Kunzar road), Ringawari is a open valley surrounded by the dense pine forests, its locally called mini Gulmarg for which it has become a favourite picnic spot of the people. A stream 'peshkol' flowing through the meadows of Ringawarai adds to its charm. This area is also connected by treks to Khag valley in Budgam through Badarkoot village and Doomkoot mountain enroute a valley with dense pine forests called 'Gattapather' valley of dark. A 43 km road from Tangmarg via Badarkoot to Poonch is also being constructed to connect the valley with the Pirpanchal range. Tourists are advised to take a guide from Tangmarg for this day tour.

Do's and Don'ts in Gulmarg during winter :

- Do keep extra warm clothes and extra pair of socks, gloves and shoes OR hire.
- Do travel in Jeeps preferably with 4 gears and chained tyres.
- Do travel in groups .
- Do return from Gondola trip as per fixed time.
- Do keep light off the heating gadgets before you sleep.
- Do stay indoors after late evening.
- Do give way to skiers.
- Don't travel in cars and bykes.
- Don't go off the road during a halt.
- Don't make late evening journeys.
- Don't light fire place on your own.
- Don't let kids play with snow, bear hands.
- Don't run on the frozen roads.
- Don't litter, use bins instead.

How to Reach: For the tourists it is advisable to hire a taxi from any taxi stand or Travel agent directly to Gulmarg particularly during winter. Back packers can use the local bus service from Batamaloo Bus stand in Srinagar upto Tangmarg whereafter the local mini coach or sumo can be hired. During the Summers JKSRTC has a special daily service for the tourists from Tourist reception Centre Srinagar.

Where to Eat: The restaurants in the hotel complexes provide all time meals of all type, Continental, Mughlai and India vegetarian at reasonable charges. For a quick snack or a cup of tea at the cafes and the shops / tea stalls in the main market area offer instant brew for the visitors. JKTDC club restaurant, Highlands park, Khyber Mountain Resort, Heevan Retreat, Grand Mumtaz, Pine Palce Resort, Gulmarg Resorts, Hiltop, Vintage, Welcome, Affarwat and Kingsley offer sumptuous food with all varieties as per the order of the visitors.

Where to Stay: Hotels are situated right from entrance point along the road near the Rani Temple area upto the Gandola car parking. Some of the resorts are situated at the Club area atop a meadow while many more resorts are situated adjacent to the Gandola area and JKTDC Hutments. The luxury hotel room rate varies from Rs.6000 to Rs. 14000 per double bed room and the hotels and guest houses have a rate of Rs.1500 to Rs.5000. During the peak season in summer and winter advance room booking is advisable.

Some HOTELS & RESTAURANTS AT GULMARG

Courtesy : KHARA & KHAROF, JKHC & Others

AFFARVAT

Gulmarg 254402, 9419052080, 9906526806,
9419741696, 9419052080,
01954-254634
Email: hotelaffarwatgulmarg@gmail.com

ALPINE RIDGE

Gulmarg
Telefax: 01954-254527, 9796111013,
9419002379, 8803488031
Email: hotelalpineridge@gmail.com
Website: www.hotelalpineridge.com

CITY VIEW

Gulmarg 254415-16 (pp)

FALAK HUTS

Gulmarg 9419013466, 9419001777
(Sgr. 0194-2310125, 2310417)

FLOURESCENCE

Khilanmarg, Gulmarg
01954-254641, 214020, 9797743770,
9858063770, 9596264642
Email: hotelflourescence@gmail.com
Website: www.flourescence.co.in

GRAND MUMTAZ RESORTS

Gulmarg Near Gandola
Telefax: 254563-64
(Sgr. 2452538, 2452548, 2450281)
Telefax: 254404, 0194-2310291 (Sgr.)
9419426105, 9419018182

GREEN HEIGHTS

Gulmarg
01954-254404, 9419018182, 9419426105
(Sgr. 2310910) 9596096088,
Email: hotelgreenheightsgulmarg@yahoo.com

GULMARG INN

Gulmarg
9469100642, 9419597673, 9797940911
Email: gulmarg_in@yahoo.com

GULMARG RESORTS

Gulmarg 9419045177
Email: info@gulmargresorts.com
Website: www.gulmargresorts.com

GULMARG SAHARA

Gulmarg

9419447766, 254505, 254588,

01954- 254505,

Fax: 01954-254565, 9419446122

Email: hotelgulmargsahara@yahoo.com

Website: www.hotelgulmargsahara.com

GREEN PARK HOTEL & RESTAURANT

01954-254485, 9622441518

Email: hotelgreenparkgulmarg@gmail.com

Website: www.hotelgreenparkgulmarg.webs.com

GULMARG INN & RESTARANT

01954-254501, 9469643744, 9596570866,

Email: gulmarg_in@yahoo.com

HEEVEN RETREAT

Gulmarg

01954-254455

Fax: 01954-254620

Email: info@ahadhotelsandresorts.com

Website: www.ahadhotelsandresorts.com

HIGHLAND'S PARK

Gulmarg

01954-254430, 254491, 9419413355

Telefax: 01954- 254407

Email: highlandspark@gmail.com

Website: www.hotelhighlandspark.com

HILL-TOP

Gulmarg Telefax: 254477, 254445, 254559-60, .

9419045163, 2454486 (Sgr.)

Email: hilltopgroupofhotels@rediffmail.com /

hilltopgroupofhotels@gmail.com

Website: www.hilltopgulmarg.com

KHYBER MOUNTAIN RESORTS & SPA

Gulmarg, Kashmir. Tel: 254660,

Email: info@khyberhotels.com

Reservations@khyberhotels.com

KHALEEL PALACE, Gulmarg

01954-254556 / 57, 9697747273, 9697747274,

9858064177, 9858345063

Email: hotelkhaleelpalace@gmail.com,

hotelkhaleelpalace@yahoo.com

Website: www.khaleelpalace.in

KINGSLAY Gulmarg 254415-16,

(Telefax: 0194-2479473 Sgr.)

Telefax: 01954-254416

KONGPOSH RESTAURANT

Gulmarg

214138, 204073, 9419511938, 9906484912

Email: pghassan@indiatimes.com

NEDOU'S

Gulmarg 254428, (2473301, 2472142 Sgr.)

26854516,

Fax: 26865706 (N. Delhi), Cell : 9419056437

Email: reservations@nedoushotelgulmarg.com

NEW ZUM ZUM

Gulmarg

01954-254519, 9419470279, 9622534552,

9596129232. Email: hotelzamzam@yahoo.in

NEW MOUNT VIEW HOTEL & RESTAURANT

9697308595, 9596527556

Email: gulmargbackpackers@gmail.com

PINE PALACE RESORT

Gulmarg

Tel: 01954- 254466, 254567,

Fax: 01954-254504,

Email: pinepalacegulmarg@yahoo.com

Website: www.mcogroupcompanies.com

POSHWAN

Gulmarg

01954-254506, 0194-2137286, 9906931141,

9906743976

Email: manager@hotelposhwan.com

Website: www.hotelposhwan.com

PINE SPRINGS,

Gulmarg

01954-254537/38 Fax: 01954-254440

9906512140, 9419407945

Email: info@hotelpinespring.com,

pinespring12@hotmail.com

Website : www.hotelpinespring.com

ROYAL PARK

Gulmarg

01954-254561, 254562, 254473, 9419000104

Email: reservation@hotelroyalpark.net

royalpark_gul@yahoo.com

Website: www.hotelroyalpark.net

THE VINTAGE

Gulmarg, Kashmir

01954-254582/83, Fax: 01954-254584

Email: info@thevintage.in

Website: www.thevintage.in

SUN N SNOW
01954-254582/83,
Fax: 01954-254584
Email: info@thevintage.in
Website: www.thevintage.in

WELCOME
Gulmarg
01954-254412, 9858084014 Gulmarg
0194-2453290-94 (5 lines), Srinagar.
0194-2479553, 2479704
Fax: 0194-2479667
Email: reservations@welcomehotelsgr.com
booking@welcomesgr.com
Website: www.welcomehotelsgr.com

YAMBERZAL
Gulmarg
01954-254523, 9419468480, 9419097973
Email: yemberzalhotel@yahoo.com
mirnazir786@yahoo.com
Website: www.yemberzalhotel.com

ZAHGEER CONTINENTAL
Gulmarg (Sgr.)
01954-254522, 9419073663
Email: hotelzahgeercont@yahoo.co.in
Website: www.hotezahgeercontinental.com
Www.hotelingulmarg.com

Some Hotels & Restaurants At Tangmarg - Baramulla

DAWAT
Baramulla 9906637608, 9697007575

DOWN HILL
Tangmarg 254516, 254423

MAHAJAN
Tangmarg 214056, 9419415744

MALIK DARBAR RESTAURANT
Tangmarg
9906424669, 9906770070

NEW LIGHT & RESTAURANT,
Sopore
01954-222851

PINE VIEW
Tangmarg
8803350124, 9906598627, 9622579291
Email: pineviewhotel555@gmail.com

PURAN'S KHANA KHAZANA
Baramulla 9419183128, 9419073588

TIME-PASS RESTAURANT
Hygam, Baramulla
220567, 221188, 9906442512, 9906458777

APPLE TREE,
Batpora Kunzar,
9906500043, 9419001484, 9596495942
Email: info@appletreresorts.com
Website: www.appletreresorts.com

GREENZ
Tangmarg,
9906500043, 9419001484, 9596495942
Email: info@appletreresorts.com
Website: www.appletreresorts.com

RIZK
Tangmar
9419017822, 9906407760
Email: rizk.restaurant@gmail.com,

Important Contact No: Gulmarg STD Code : 01954.

Tourist Officer Gulmarg: 254504, 254439, 254487

Trouist reception Centre: 254436

Winter Sports Gulmarg: 254417

GDA : 254625, 254629-30

JKTDC : 254511, 254507, 254494

Gandola Cable Car : 254500, 254447.

Gulmarg Police Station : 254442

Tangmarg Police Station: 254431

HAWS : 254550, 254549

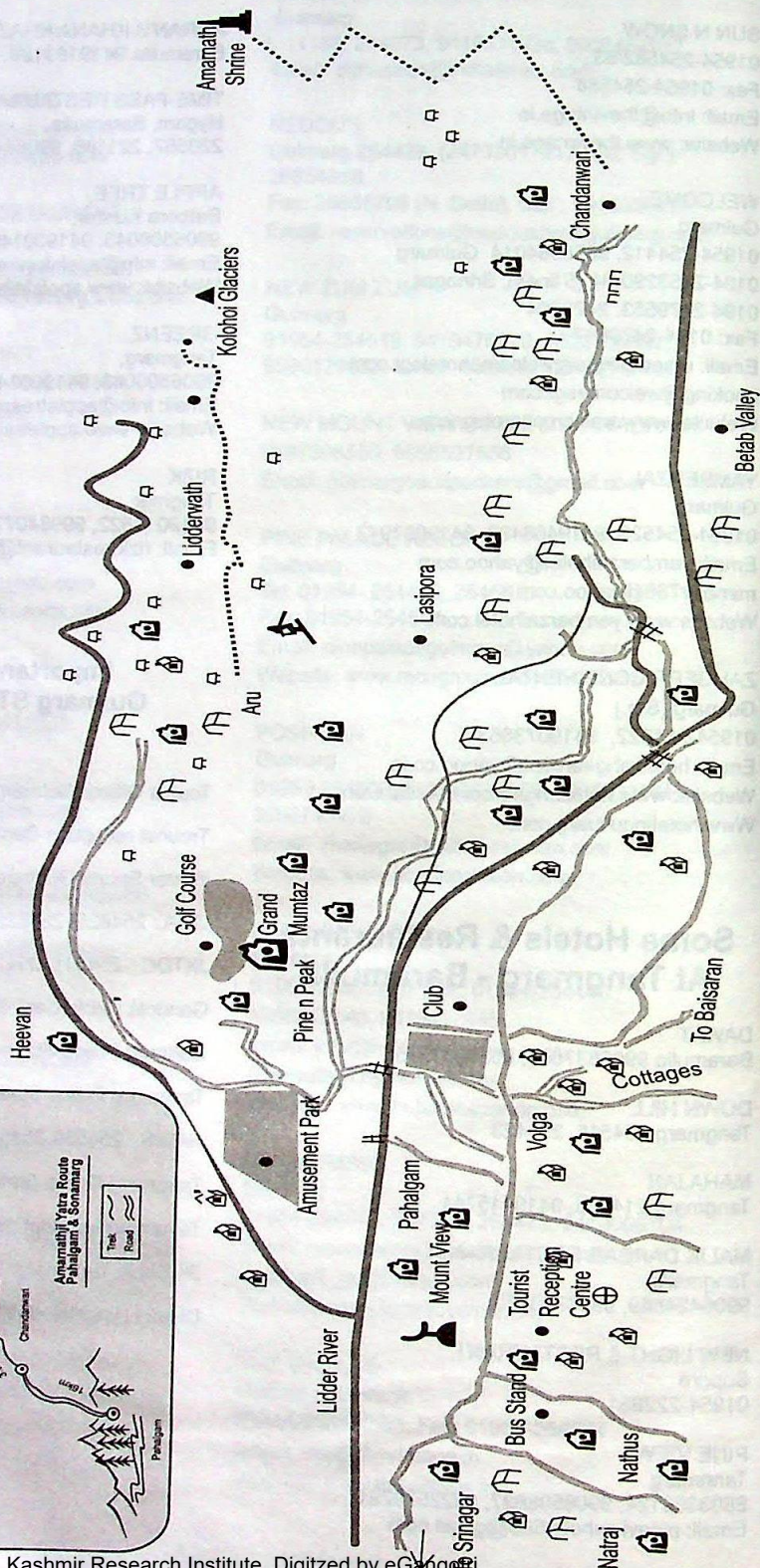
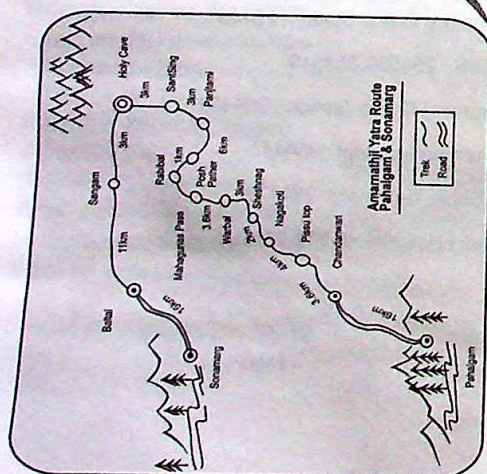
Tangmarg Police Station : 254431

Tangmarg Hospital : 254441

JK Bank, Tangmarg: 254476

District Hospital: 01952-234203

Pahalgam



PAHALGAM

Alt. : 2130 m Dist.: 95 Km

A vast mountain valley where *Lidder* river flows nearby, astounding mountains with surplus meadows overwhelm every visitor. Pahalgam means a "Shepherd's Village" where word *Puhoul* denotes to Shepherd and *Gam* a village. The village life in surrounding areas offers a perfect blend of culture and nature to be pleased during the stay. Roaring Lidder river flows through the valley, rising from the Kolohoi glaciers and is sufficed by the water of Sheeshnag lake and Tarsar lake which finally joins river Jhelum. Pahalgam has an amazing golf course open for tourists now being extended into an **18 hole Golf Course**. The course is situated amid the mountains full of pine trees. The children's park near the Lidder river is thrill filled experience for families with kids. Pahalgam has been once again attraction for the film makers, the foreign travelers find it most suitable for trekking to high altitude lakes and wonderful experiences.

Trout fishing in Lidder River is quite popular sport in Pahalgam. Brown and Rainbow trout's in the soft & hard levels of the river challenges an angler to throw a line at different beats. Anglers can buy or hire the fishing equipments like a rod, reel, flies, net basket or long boots from the shops at Polo view lane, near the Bund, Srinagar. The ghilis can also be arranged from fisheries dept or the angler's shops in the market. Permits have to be collected well in advance from J&K fisheries department. Best season for fishing is April to September. Pahalgam valley is famous for the trekkers, its un ending mountain range, dense forests, presence of nomads in far off regions and availability of stream water makes it ideal for summer trekking and camping.

Rafting is yet another sport enjoyed at

Lidder River during summer. The professional registered rafting camps at Pahalgam provide services at reasonable charges to the tourists. Winter in Pahalgam charms visitors with snowcapped peaks and the clear blue sky. Most of the luxury hotels in Pahalgam have central heating facility, the winter chill would be more enjoyable with bonfires in the evening at valley full of pines.

The Tourist Office at main market area provides information and assistance to the visitors related to all leisure, pilgrimage and adventure activities in the area.

Best time to visit: Round the year.

Places of Interest

Baisaran (3 km) is an exciting place for tourists, where a stream flows through the meadows and pine trees. Visitors can either trek or enjoy a horse ride from the market area.

Shikargha, a wild life reserve, is another nearby picnic spot reached on foot or by pony.

Betab valley (4km) a spot at a walkable distance famous for many bollywood film shootings. Ponies can be hired to this stream and forest bound valley.

Phrislan (7 km) a short trek to stream amidst poplars is an ideal place for nature walks and trout fishing.

Mamal Temple, the ancient temple of Mamalika built in 11th century by King Jayasimha, is situated on the right bank of Lidder near Pahalgam. The temple has a pedestal and a Shivalinga, a pure water spring rises at the site covered by a basin.

Aru is a resort village, 14km from Pahalgam with a motorable road. The Aru

village offers wonderful peculiar village life style of the people. The JKTDC Tourist Bungalow and few private hotels offer accommodation for the visitors. Advance booking during peak season is recommended. From here, a famous trek via **Lidderwat** a magnificent valley leads to the **Kolohoi Glaciers** (36km) at an altitude of 3400m. A glimpse of **Kolohoi Peak**, 5370 m on a clear day can be most breathtaking. Kolohoi peak is a dream climb of many mountaineers from valley and abroad. From Aru a short trek of 7 Km leads to a lesser known frozen high altitude lake called as **Katarnag**.

Tarsar Marsar; The most desired trek to twin Lakes, Tarsar 3794m & Marsar 3788 m (2-3 days trek) starts from Aru to these famous high altitude lake of Kashmir. Lakes are separated by a mountain pass, it is believed that Tarsar saves and Marsar kills. The color of the lakes also has some significance as Tarsar lake is crystal clear with blue water while the Marsar lake has dark green colored water. The trekking to this area is possible only during the peak summer (June to August).

Tulian Lake (14km) at an altitude of 3353 m is a full day trek starting from main market. A trek of steep terrains passing through valley full of nomads leads to a magically green colored lake where one would love to stay for a longer time.

Mattan temple, few kilometers ahead of Anantnag, a pond full of holy fishes is believed to be creations of Lord Shiva. The water of the pond is believed to change colors signifying good or bad omen for the valley according to local belief.

Ashmuqam: A shrine of a sufi saint Shiekh Zaina-ud-Din Wali RA on a hillock at Ashmuqam 86 km from Srinagar is on Pahalgam road. Originally known as Zia Singh who belonged to a hindu family in

Kishtwar (Doda). He suffered from a disease that could not be cured by any doctor of hakim. his family brought him to Kashmir and approached Shiekh Noor-ud-Din Noorani RA, who cured his disease. This event changed Zia Sighs life and after his father was killed he came under the influence of Shiekh Noor ud din RA became his follower, converted to Islam and came to be known as "Zaina Shah Sahib". The main sanctum sanctorum is situated inside a deep narrow cave, where several relics associated with the saint are preserved. One of the relics is 'The Rod of Staff' of Prophet Moses PBUH which is believed to have been gifted by Shah Hamdan to Shiekh Noor-ud-Din Noorani, who further handed over the relic to his disciple Ziana Shah Sahib. The Zool festival is celebrated by the local people in the month of April in respect of the Sheikh Zaina-ud-Din Wali RA in a peculiar way of holding torchlight's "lashi" in a procession, which starts in the late evening.

Martand (Sun Temple): 64 km from Srinagar and just 7km from Anantnag the "Sun Temple" of martand belongs to the era of Pandvas. Ruins of temple were built by the King Lalitaditya Muktapid 699-739 AD and is situated atop a plateau. It is believed that Surya, the sun god was 13th child born to Aditi wife of saint Kashyap from a life less egg called Martand. According to some reports the foundation of the temple is said to have been between 370 AD - 500 AD, whereas some record the construction of the temple by Ranaditya who reigned in 223 AD. The majestic form of temple ruins has been of interest for people having curiosity about the culture and history of Kashmir.

Avantipur Temples: 30 km from Srinagar on National Highway enroute Pahalgam one can visit these impressive temple ruins built during the reign of King

Awantiwarman (855-883 AD). Awantipur, once the capital of Kashmir is on the right bank of river Jehlum.

Amarnathji Yatra

Pahalgam (Nunwan) is the base camp of Amarnathji yatra. Holy Cave is 46.7 km from Pahalgam at an altitude of 3952 m, believed to be abode of Lord Shiva. The ice lingam formed by water droplets, symbolizes Lord Shiva. Nearby ice lingams of Mata Parvati, Lord Ganesha and Lord Kartikeya are equally revered. People visit the Holy Cave during the scheduled Yatra period between mid June to mid August depending upon the Hindu calendar (Sawan Purnima). Yatris can hire a pony or Dandy from (Nunwan) Pahalgam or walk up the holy trek.

According to Bringesha Samhita, a book in sanskrit, rishi Bringesha once instructed his disciples to have darshan of sacred lingam at the holy cave. The pilgrims were harassed by demons on the way, Lord Shiva gifted rishi's a scepter for their safeguard. Charri Mubarak today is a symbol of caravan that starts from Jammu via Srinagar to Pahalgam and culminates at Holy cave which also denotes end of Yatra period.

This Hindu pilgrimage is believed to be discovery of a Muslim shepherd named Butta Malik whose descendants still receive a percentage of donations made by pilgrims. The State government organizes Yatra generally for a period of one or two months. The yatra registration is must for all yatris, which is made available at J&K bank branches at selected cities of India. The insurance covers are also included in nominal registration fee prescribed by the government for yatris. The helicopter service from Pahalgam is also operational now for yatris from base camp to Panjtarni.

All stopovers on yatra route right from Jammu to Holy cave via Pahalgam and Sonnmarg have facilities like tents, ration depots, medical camps, free langars, latrines, telecom, security and emergency services.

The trek via Pahalgam is covered in 2 to 3 days. Distances of stopovers from Pahalgam are: Chandanwari-16 km (Vehicles are available for transportation), Pissu top- 19.6 km, Sheeshnag-25.6 km, Panjtarni - 40.2 km, Holy Cave - 46.7km.

The Legend: The cave has a significance of being a secret place of Lord Shiva for narrating secrets of immortality and creation of universe to goddess Parvati on her insistence. Lord Shiva chose this place in high mountains for the Amar Katha where no one else would over hear the tale. At Chandanwari Shiva is believed to have released moon from his hair. At banks of Lake Sheeshnag he released the snakes. At Mahagunas pass he left behind his son Ganesha. At Panjtarni Shiva left behind his five elements Earth, Water, Fire and Sky, of which the living beings are made. After leaving everything behind Shiva and Parvati performed Tandav Nriti (Dance). Lord Shiva enters the cave meditates on the deer skin to ensure that no living being is able to hear the Immortal tale. Shiva creates Rudra named Kalagni to spread fire and eliminate every living thing around the holy cave. After that Shiva narrates Amar Katha or Immortal Tale to goddess Parvati. It is believed that by chance an egg lying under the deer skin remains alive and protected under the Lords Asan (Bed). Out of this egg a pair of pigeon is said to have born which became immortal having listened the Immortal Tale. Today the pair of pigeon is seen by many pilgrims, it is believed that the pigeons visit the holy cave to pay obeisance to the Lord Shiva (Lingam).

Sheeshnag, First Night Stopover : 25.6 km, a full day walking distance from

Pahalgam, Sheeshnag has sufficient tented accommodation for yatries, all the essential facilities are available for yatries mostly free like medication, langars etc. According to Hindu mythology powerful Asura a demon created havoc among gods as he had been given boon of being eternal by Lord Shiva, gods were asked by Lord Shiva to approach Lord Vishnu. The gods prayed to Lord Vishnu as a result the mighty snake in the lake destroyed the demon. For this reason the place is called as Sheeshnag. Bathing in the lake is considered auspicious.

Panchtarni, Second Night Stopover: 40.2 km from Pahalgam, another full day walk from Sheeshnag, tented accommodation and other facilities are available for yatries. A stream here joins another four streams. It is believed that Lord Shiva was performing Tandav Nritya, the cosmic dance of destruction, his locks got disheveled from which the five streams came down. Its considered auspicious to bathe in these holy streams.

Holy Cave, Third Night Stopover (Optional) : Total of 46.7 km from Pahalgam, a half a day walk from Panchtarni, the camp near the holy cave has every facility for yatries. After darshans a night halt is generally preferred by some yatries. Some prefer to walk back same day to Panchtarni, whereas most of the yatries take the Baltal route to come down same day and stay overnight at Baltal camp 13 km from Sonamarg.

Outside the cave two pigeons could be seen by the blessed ones. According to another legend once Lord Shiva was in deep meditation he was disturbed by two devotees, Lord got furious and transformed them into pigeons. Since then the two pigeons worship the lord outside the cave, which have been witnessed by many yatries near the cave on their pilgrimage.

Dos:

- Carry warm clothes and rain proofs
- Keep two pairs of trekking /sports shoes
- Carry sufficient dry eatables like biscuits and namkeens.
- Get a medical checkup done from a doctor before planning for yatra.
- Carry proper yatra registration.
- Carry a set of oxygen inhaler

Dont's

- Don't smoke enroute yatra
- Don't carry heavy bags while on yatra.
- Don't walk close to ponies or dandies.
- Don't sit frequently at the route.
- Don't neglect regulations and security check post.
- Don't litter use a bin or a bag.
- Don't throw away polythene.

How to Reach

SRTC sightseeing coaches during summer are operational for the visitors. Regular Sumo service from Dalgate to Anantnag and direct service from Pantha Chowk can be availed , which is frequently used for the local transportation. The local bus service daily starts from the Pantha chowk 5 km from Srinagar on National Highway (at Bypass) till mid day. Tourists are advised to hire a taxi from a taxi stand or travel agent for full day for the 3 hrs one way journey. During Amarnath yatra there are restrictions on the normal timings for the transport as the Yatra convoy from Jammu and Srinagar pass on a fixed schedule . Yatries should carry their yatra permits during the tour and reach Pahalgam at least a day before of the journey date. The tourists during the yatra period should keep the hotel reservation handy for the checking purpose on the route and start journey in early morning. The transport service for Pahalgam is uninterrupted through out the year during the winter season the snow clearance may impede the route for a short time.

Where to Eat

The restaurants at the main market and bus stand area provide all kind of meals continental and Indian delicacies as per the order of the guests. There are a many vegetarian Restaurants and Dhabas in the main market area and Chandanwari particularly during the yatra period. Hotels have restaurants that offer all delicacies for tourists.

Where to Stay

Pahalgam has the highest number of luxury hotels and guest houses after the Srinagar city. Right from the main market upto the Lasipora village and near Chandanwari the hotels and guest houses are scattered around all areas. The cottages owned by JKTDC and the private entrepreneurs offer homely atmosphere for the traveler. JKTDC run Yatri Niwas is near the main market. Some of the best hotels in Pahalgam have fully centrally heated rooms for the winters. Hotel behind the main market and in the Golf course area near Lidder river are off the main road yet offer splendid environs.

Other Places Of Interest Around Pahalgam

Anantnag

Anantnag is the most developed district of the valley after Srinagar city, also locally famous as Islamabad, this district has some of the most and maximum tourist spots liked from the times of Mughals. Word Anant according to Hindu mythology indicates to Anant meaning infinite and never ending and the word nag signifies the naga 'snakes'. It is said that the Lord Shiva left all his valuables and the serpents surrounding his body at

this place before he left for his abode at Amarnath Cave. However historians have indicated referred meaning of Anantnag to the presence of numerous Nags 'springs' in the region. 45 km from Srinagar, this district has famous tourist specified hereunder;

Kokernag 2020 m : (77km), a spring with curative properties, is a favorite picnic spot of local visitors who enjoy a family lunch and relish the spring water. Abul Fazal has called its water limpid, cold and wholesome. He says that, should a hungry person drink it, his hunger will be appeased and the satisfaction it gives will renew desire for it. 17 km from Anantnag was originally called Bindu Zalamgam, the spring bears its name to springs spread over in a shape of claw of the cock "Kokar nag", Kokur in Kashmiri means a cock and nag a spring. With a total area of 300 kanals, most of its area is used for the botanical purpose. The tourist bungalow of JKTDC in the garden has few rooms for the night stay of the visitors.

Verinag : (80km), the spring here is said to be the source of river Jehlum. Stone basin at the spring was built by Jehangir in 1612. It was further laid out by his son, Shah Jehan, in 1620. 26 km from Anantnag this pleasure house of Mughals still serves as an attractive picnic spot for the visitors.

Nagbal: The spring which rises from the hill is attributed to Lord Vishnu or Ananta. The diety of Ananta Baghwan has been installed at the outlet of the spring during the reign of maharaja Pratap Singh in 19th century. The sulphur spring and a Gurdwara is also in the Nagbal complex.

Achabal: 1667m (58 km), has a spring flowing out of Sosansar hills at a Mughal garden initially known as Shaibabad after Begum Shahiba the title of Shah Jahans daughter Jahanara. It was built by Noor

Surrounding his body at. Digitized by eGangotri

Jehan and her daughter Jahanara in 1640 during reign of Shah Jahan. It also has a trout hatchery. It is believed that the Bring river that disappears at Dewalgam village in the limestone fissures, is the original source of the Spring. 8km from the Anantnag town is a favorite spot of the local people. The Mosque in the garden is said to have been built by the Mughal prince Dhara Shikho.

Daksum : 2438m (90km), a forest retreat encircled by enchanting mountains is situated on the Anantnag-Sinthan Pass road. A stream flowing through the valley makes it ideal for the trout fishing. Daksum is about 40km from Anantnag town. Over the Sinthan Pass the trek leads to Kishtwar, Doda and further on to Zaskar Valley.

Shrine of Syed Hassan Mantaqui: The most revered shrine on the national highway near Awantipur ruins, it is considered a good omen to pay obeisance and drop some rupees in the box at the shrine while travelling on the National Highway.

Some Hotels & Restaurants at Pahalgam

Courtesy : KHARA & KHAROF, JKHC & Others

AKSA LODGE Pahalgam,
01936-243349, 243324, (2455778 Sgr.)
9419007681, 9419045314, 9419014100,
Fax: 0194-2451383
Email: ashiq-ahmad53@rediffmail.com
Website: www.aksaresorts.com

ALPINE Pahalgam 243359, 9419045069
BRIGHT VIEW Pahalgam 243132
BROWN PALACE Pahalgam
01936-243255, 9418007867
Email: brownpalace81@yahoo.co.in
Website: www.brownpalace.in

CENTRAL & REST. Pahalgam 243346
CHINAR GUEST HOUSE Pahalgam
243381, 9419435814

DAWAR HEEWAN Pahalgam

DOLPHIN,
9906427895, 9419015122, 9419002835
Email: mirmuzaffar4@gmail.com

EVERGREEN GUEST HOUSE Pahalgam
9419435753

EXCELLENT Pahalgam 243312, 9419045206
FIMI Aru- Pahalgam

FOREST RESORT, Laripora, Pahalgam,
09469618907, 9906965778
Email: info@Foresthillresorts.com
Website: www.foresthillresorts.com

GLACIER & RESTAURANT Pahalgam
243394, 94194045128

GOOD LUCK Pahalgam
01936-243282, 9419045016, 9419435541
Email: hotelgoodluck@yahoo.com

GRAND MUMTAZ RESORTS Pahalgam
01936-243184, 243185
Telefax: 01936-243184
Website: www.traveltokashmir.com
www.grandmumtaaz.com

GRAND VIEW Pahalgam
243273, 243119, 9419045168

GRAND HERITAGE RESORT, Chandanwari Road,
laripora, Pahalgam, Cell: 9906826390,
9906453603, 9469422242.

GRAY HOUSE & RESTAURANT
Pahalgam 243253, 9419603605

GREEN WOOD PALACE Pahalgam

HEEMAL Pahalgam 243027, 9419045112,
9419454455,
Email: hotelheemalpahalgam@gmail.com

HEENA Pahalgam 243351

HEEVAN Pahalgam
01936-243219, 243303, 9419045324, 9906625610
Fax: 0194-2500299
Email: info@ahadhotelsandresorts.com
Website: www.ahadhotelsandresorts.com

HERITAGE-INN Pahalgam 9419007467, 249244

HILL PARK Pahalgam
01936-2432856, 211465, 9419016869
Email: hilpark14@yahoo.com,
coolshabir23@yahoo.com

HILL TOP Pahalgam
01936-243485, 243465, 211425, 9419070461
Telefax: 01936-243485

Email: hilltopgrouphotels@rediffmail.com
hilltopgroup@gmail.com
Website : www.hotelhilltoppahalgam.com
Email: hilltopgrouphotels@rediffmail.com /
hilltopgroup@gmail.com
Website: www.hotelhilltopgulgumarg.com

HIMALAYA HOUSE Pahalgam
01936-243072, 243051, 9418020814
Email: info@himalayafunandtours.com

HOLIDAY GUEST HOUSE Pahalgam
01936-243067, 9419454473

ICE ROCK Pahalgam

ICELAND & RESTAURANT Pahalgam
0194-2481000, 9419017678, 9797778233

IRFAN GUEST HOUSE Pahalgam
01936-243054

ISLAND GUEST HOUSE
Pahalgam 9419045049

ISLAND RESORT (CAMP) Pahalgam
09797793441, 9419014108
Email: bakshianwar@gmail.com,
bakshianwar@hotmail.com
Website: www.theislandresort.net

KASHMIR STANDARD Pahalgam
01936-243280, 210940

KHALSA JANTA & REST. Pahalgam

KING PALACE Pahalgam
01936-243203, 243273, 9419045166,
9419045150, 9419045168
Website: www.hotelkingpalace.net

LIDDER PALACE Pahalgam
01936-243237, 09697089215, 9419045054
Website: www.hotellidder.com

LONE GUEST HOUSE Pahalgam
243126, 9419435985

MAHARAJA PALACE Pahalgam
01936-243211, 211430, 9419600037
Email: maharajap_pahalgam@gmail.com

MANSION, Pahalgam 243354, 243356

MANTOO COTTAGE, Pahalgam
9419009032, 9419581518
Email: mantoocottages@yahoo.co.in
Website: www.mantoocottages.web.com

MEHAK, Pahalgam 243275

METRO, Pahalgam 01936-243082, 9419596171
Email: metrokhaz@bsnl.in

MIDWAY Pahalgam 9419066683

MIRLODGES Pahalgam 9419018397

MOUNT VIEW Pahalgam
01936-243221, Fax: 01936-243221, 9419017491,
9419049858, 9419045177
Email: info@mountviewpahalgam.com
Website: www.mountviewpahalgam.com

NATHU'S RASOI
Pahalgam 243095, 9419001684

NATRAJ Pahalgam
01936-243225, 243491, 09419523131
Email: info@hotelnatrajpahalgam.com
Website: www.hotelnatrajpahalgam.com

NEW INDIA Pahalgam 243365

NEW PINE VIEW Pahalgam 243385

NOOR MAHAL Pahalgam
Tele: 01936-243227, 9906886742
Email: hotelnoormehal@gmail.com

PAHALGAM Pahalgam
(2479378, 2451556, 2477936 Sgr.)
01936-243252, 9419051883, 990682491,
9419045057 Telefax: 243267
Email: info@pahalgamhotel.com
Website: www.pahalgamhotel.com

PAHALGAM INN Pahalgam
2484605, 2472098 Sgr., 9419571203, 2100168,
9419009827, 990657527

PAHALGAM PALACE Pahalgam
243169, 9419045730

PAHALGAM RESORTS Pahalgam
01936-243332, 9419045284, 9419542740,
9858468717 Fax: 01936-243001

PARADISE Pahalgam
243368, 94194568, 9419049076

PARK PALACE, Pahalgam,
01936-243056, 9419045176
Email: parkpalace@ymail.com

PARADISE CAMPING EXPEDITION
Pahalgam/ Sonamarg 9419074182

PLAZA (A) Pahalgam 243239
PLAZA (B) Pahalgam
PINE PALACE, Pahalgam,
01936-243056, 9419045176
Email: parkpalace@ymail.com

PINE SPRINGS ,
01936-243069, 243386
Fax: 01936-243117
9906512140, 9419407945

Email: info@hotelpinespring.com,
admin@hotelpinespring.com
Website: www.hotelpinespring.com

POORNIMA Pahalgam 941950240

PRIME ROSE GUEST HOUSE Pahalgam
243148, 9419435986, 9419435609

PRINCE Pahalgam, 243031, 9419045217

RAHAT Pahalgam

9419006536 Fax: 0194-2313940
Email: rahatcottage@gmail.com
Website: www.rahatcottage.com

RAINA GUEST HOUSE Pahalgam,
243262, 9419050702, 9419435801
RAJ MAHAL Pahalgam

RAJ PALACE Pahalgam
Tel: 01936-243276, Telefax: 0194-2311923,
2311671, Cell: 9419045176
Email: rajpalace@yahoo.com

REGENT Pahalgam
01936-243324, 9419007681
Fax: 0194-2451383
Email: ashiq-ahmad53@rediffmail.com
Website: www.aksaresorts.com

SAHALIMAR PALACE Pahalgam

SAMARQAND Pahalgam 243325, (2478236 Sgr.)

SENATOR PINE-N-PEAK
01936-243304, 243210, 9419045325,
9419010991, 9906625611 Fax: 01936-243210
Email: info@ahadhotelsandresorts.com
Website: www.ahadhotelsandresorts.com

SHAH JEHAN Pahalgam

SHAHJEE PALACE Pahalgam

SHEHJAR LODGE Pahalgam 9419058129
SHEPHERD'S Pahalgam 243274
Fax: 243274, 0194-2465088, 9419752246

SHESHNAG Pahalgam

SNOW VIEW Pahalgam
01936-243052, 243166, 9797846126,
9906893389, 9797958439

SUN SHINE GUEST HOUSE Pahalgam
243154, 9419531139

SWISS COTTAGE Pahalgam
01936-243060, 9469020370
TAJ MAHAL Pahalgam 243361, 9419455396

TULYAN Pahalgam 01936-243096,

0194-2452687, 9906575000
Website: www.tulyan.com

VOLGA, Pahalgam, 01936-243292-93, Tele/Fax:
243486, Cell: 9419435762,
Email: hotelvolga@gmail.com,
www.hotelvolga.webs.com

VALLEY VIEW RESORT
01936-243111/12/13/15, 210962
Fax: 243389, 9419013362, 9906561131
Email: booking@valleyviewresorts.net
Website: www.valleyviewresorts.net

WHITE HOUSE Pahalgam

WIND RUSH Pahalgam

WOOD LAND Pahalgam
0194-2471822 / 23, 2310689, 9419004859,
E : orientalheritage_srinagar@rediffmail.com

WOOD STOCK Pahalgam, 01936-243259,
243134, 9419594171, 9810049469
Website: www.woodstockpahalgam.com

HIMALYA HOUSE Pahalgam, 01936-243072

PINE CLIFF RESORTS Pahalgam, 01936-24862

VALLEY VIEW RESORTS Pahalgam, 2455667

HOTEL ABSHAR, Pahalgam, Tel: 01936 211088,
Cell: 09419010092, 09419010864
Email: hotelabshar@gmail.com,
info@hotelabshar.com, www.hotelabshar.com

HOTEL GREEN TOP RESORT
Pahalgam, Tel: 01936 243054,
Cell: 09419586408

HOTEL RIVER LAND, Near Upper Bridge,
Chandanwari Road, Laripora, Pahalgam,
Cell: 9469720657, 7298691459

HOTELS & GUEST HOUSES AT CHANDANWARI, PAHALGAM.

HOTEL BAISARAN, Near Pahalgam Club,
Chandanwari Road, Opp Poshwan Park, Pahalgam
Tel: 01936 243493, Fax: 243029,
Cell: 9858456511, 9622667175,
Email: info@hotelbaisaranpahalgam.com
www.hotelbaisaranpahalgam.com

CHINAR PALACE, First Bridge, Chandanwari
Road, pahalgam, Tel: 01936 24331, 243381
Cell: 9419435814.

AASHIYANA GUEST HOUSE,
Chandanwari Road Pahalgam, 9858804537
BOMBAY PALACE,
Chandanwari Road Pahalgam, 9858458505

CHINAR PALACE HOTEL, Chandanwari Road
Pahalgam, 01936-243381, 9419435814

EDEN GARDEN GUEST HOUSE, Chandanwari
Road Pahalgam, 01936-243153, 9419585785

ESPRESSO COFFEE HOUSE, Chandanwari
Pahalgam

GOLDEN PALACE HOTEL & RESTAURANT,
Chandanwari Road Pahalgam,
01936-243181, 9419454498, 9419940290

GRAND PALACE HOTEL, Chandanwari Road
Pahalgam, 01936-243053, 9419455977

GULFAM GUEST HOUSE, Chandanwari Road
Pahalgam

INDIAN PALACE HOTEL, Chandanwari Road,
Pahalgam, 9858333753, 9622800910

MEADOW PALACE HOTEL, Chandanwari Road,
Pahalgam

MUGHAL RESORT HOTEL, Chandanwari Road
Pahalgam, 9419435874, 9858360981

PARADISE GUEST HOUSE,
Chandanwari Road Pahalgam,
01936-243251, 9419045162, 9906457491

PINE WOOD HOTEL, Chandanwari Road
Pahalgam, 01936-243024

ROYAL SPRING HOTEL, Chandanwari Road
Pahalgam, 01936-243024

SUN SHINE GUEST HOUSE,
Chandanwari Road Pahalgam, 01936-243154,
9419531139, 9797051758

TOURIST PALACE HOTEL, Chandanwari Road
Pahalgam, 01936-243073, 9419435621

Some HOTELS & RESTAURANTS in ANANTNAG, QAZIGUND & PULWAMA

AKBAR Pulwama 241305

CHINAR RESTAURANT Bijbihara 204849

CITY HEART RESTAURANT
Seer Hamdan, K. P. Road

DAWAT HOT. & RESTAURANT Awantipora

DELHI DARBAR RESTAURANT
Old KMD Adda, Anantnag 9419043088

GOOD EVE Anantnag

GOODWILL HOTEL & REST. Bijbihara

GRAND HAYAT RESTAURANT Nai Basti
Anantnag, 9906446036, 9906435027

GREEN MOUNTAIN HOTEL & RESTAURANT
Qazigund, 9596439310

HILAL HOTEL & RESTAURANT
Court Road, Pulwama 241450, 9419030856

HOLLYWOOD FAST FOOD & REST.
Sherbag, Anantnag 2224009

MARRAZ & RESTAURANT
Old Kmd Adda,
Anantnag 01932-224693

MOON LIGHT HOTEL & REST. Qazigund,
9906801666

NEW MOONLITE Upper Qazigund 9797044186

NEW STANDARD
Near G.B. Stand, Anantnag 223063
K.P. Road, Anantnag

NEW TREAT RESTAURANT
Laizbal, K.P. Road, Anantnag

R.K. HOTEL & RESTAURANT
Qazigund 235166, 9419097134

SANDOZ RESTAURANT
Seer Hamdan, K. P. Road

SUMIT RESTAURANT
Near Old KMD Adda, Anantnag

UNIVERSAL Khanabal

Important Contacts:

Pahalgam STD Code: 01936

Tourist Office: 243224, 243285

Pahalgam Dev. Authority: 243049

JKTDC: 243285, 243308

Police Station: 243228

Disst. Fisheries Officer
(Anantnag) : 01932-22541

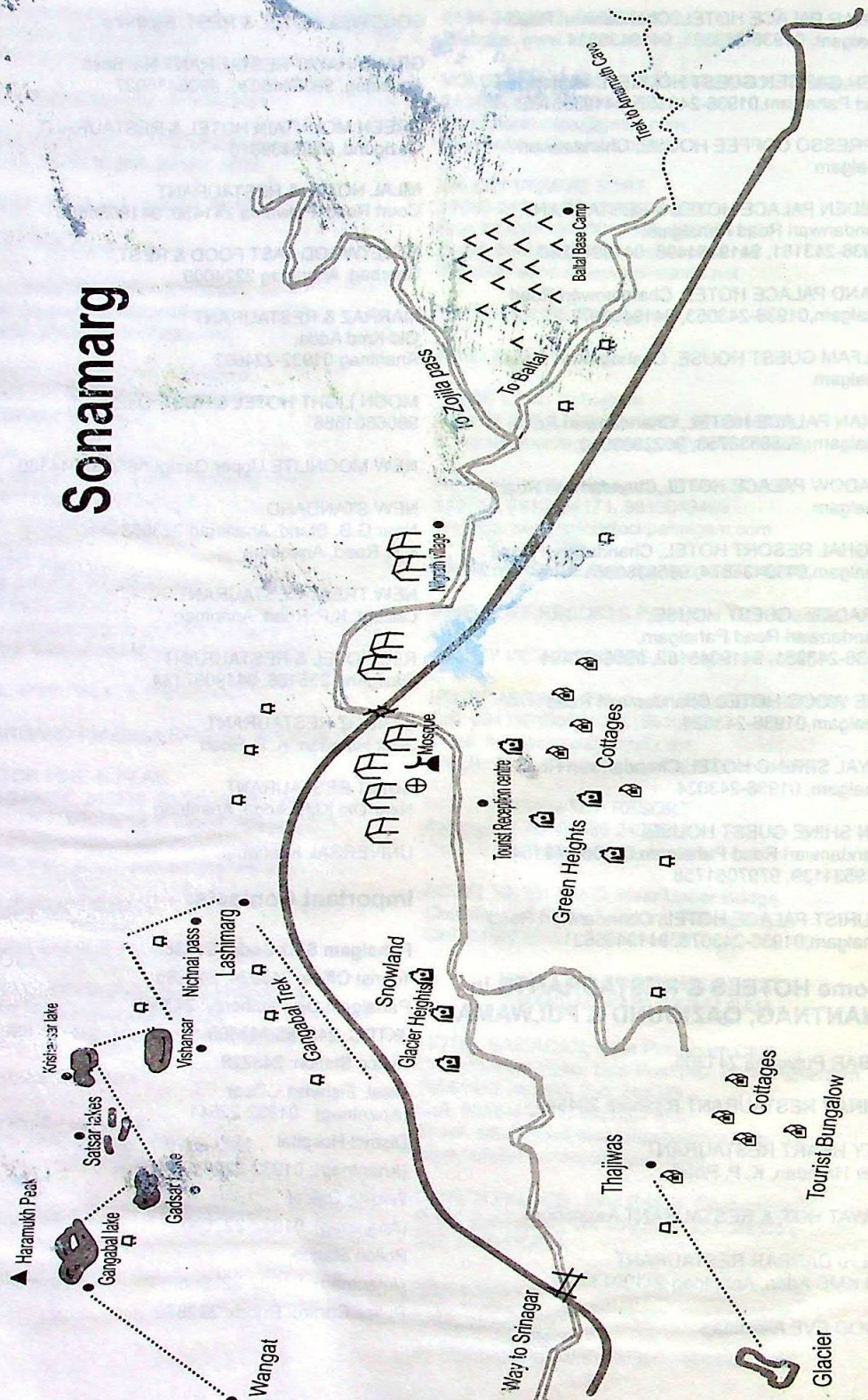
District Hospital
(Anantnag): 01932-222889

Wildlife Officer
(Anantnag): 01932-222680

Police Station
(Anantnag): 01932-222866,

Police Control Room: 222870

Sonamarg



Pahalgam Valley



Trout Fishing



Ruins of Avantipur

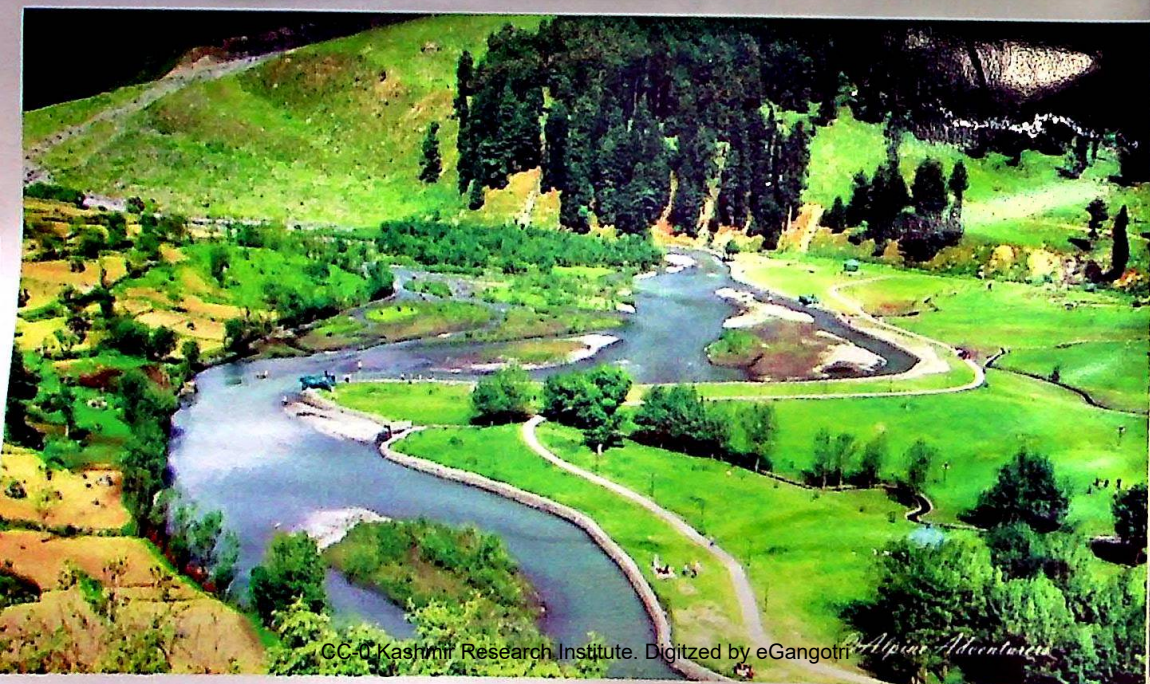
Pahalgam Golf Course





Baisaran Pahalgam
By Baba Mudasir

Betab Valley Pahalgam
By Alpine Adventurers





Skiing in Kashmir
By Baba Mudasir

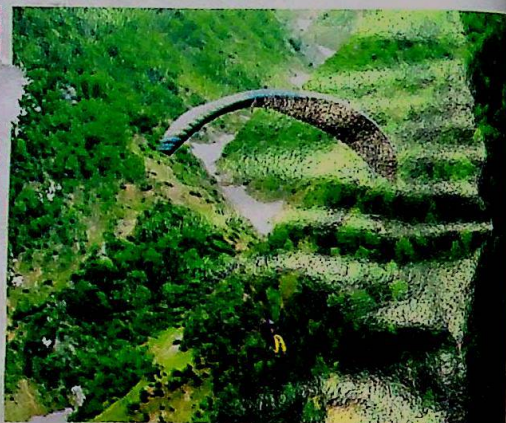


Kolohoi Peak
By Alpine Adventure

© Alpine Adventurers



Rafting at Sindh



Paragliding

Thajiwas Glacier



SONAMARG

Km 85 Alt 2740m

Sona' means gold and marg a meadow, meadow of gold is a trekker's heaven, it has adventurous routes with stunning river, rich pine trees, lush meadows and frozen lakes all around the valley. The vale is believed to be bestowed with mystical water which turns everything into eternal riches. The life of people in the area is most striking for travelers to observe their culture and way of life in the wild valley. The nomads or Gujjars live in mud & log shelters during the summer. Men don a traditional turban and women with 'tumar' hanging from their head-caps. The migration of nomads and other local habitation to warmer region can be witnessed during the arrival of winter, their return occurs during the arrival of summer. Heavy snowfall during winter disconnects Sonamarg from rest of the valley when road upto Kulan (70km) is barely open. Sind River flowing through the valley is a natural hatchery for Trout, angling is favourite among the visitors in the area, permission has to be obtained from the fisheries department.

Ascending Sind river makes Sonamarg ideal for River Rafting. Rafting competitions are held during summer by the authorities and private agencies. Adventure sports like Paragliding has lots of takers during summer. The rugged countryside market makes one feel thrill of adventure. The sparse houses, a school, a mosque and a dispensary in the village adds to charm of the valley. Sonamarg market has some of the oldest tea stall and shops where one can buy the daily use food items, the area has facilitated the travelers on Leh road for decades. The roaring Sind creates a constant cool breeze; it is hard to get off from such heavenly environs. Tourists can avail assistance at the tourist office at Sonamarg Tourist Complex. Thajiwas

glacier is always attraction for all tourist visiting Kashmir during summer.

Places of Interest

Thajiwas: The everlasting Thajiwas glacier, 3km from Sonamarg, provides a chance to enjoy sledge ride on the snow even in mid-Summer. Ponies are available up to the glacier from Sonamarg. Superb campsites in Thajiwas area make it a prime location for school camps and trekkers during summer. The peaks adjacent to the glacier site possess huge glacier which makes the sight more pleasant and thrilling.

Island Retreat Park (92km) : 4km before the main Sonamarg market, a delta amidst Sind river on Sonamarg road is a common stopover for travelers. The wooden bridge over roaring river leads to the park making it a memorable scene, the park has been developed by SDA for recreation of tourists. The murmuring Sind amidst mighty peaks creates splendid environ.

Nilgrath Village (102km) : A picturesque village just 4 km ahead of Sonamarg on Leh road has major habitation of Dards who speak Shina language. The mixed Kashmiri and Dard culture makes people of this village slightly different from the rest. Their livelihood mostly depends on labour works and tourism.

Ganderbal

One of the most picturesque districts of the valley, Ganderbal has fascinating scenery to offer to a visitor. 20 Km from Srinagar at an altitude of 1619 m, the district is surrounded by other beautiful districts of Srinagar, Bandipur, Anantnag and Kargil. The mighty Sind river flows through the valley due to this reason many hydro electric projects are setup in the district. The clean and calm Manasbal lake is situated around 10 Km

from the main district block. Ganderbal has over the years developed into a proper town where other tehsils and blocks have similarly been benefited in financial, social and educational fields. The far off villages of the district has large number of "Gujjar" nomads living whose movement to the district headquarters has increased due to governmental schemes offered for their upliftment.

Kheer Bhawani (36km) : 5 km from Ganderbal town, in the village of 'Tulmul' (of great value) is the shrine of Kheer Bhawani. The sacred spring at temple symbolizes goddess Ragnya Devi. It is believed that the MahaRagnya appeared before Ravana after his devotion towards the goddess who had installed image of goddess in Cylone. It is said that when Ravana finished his worship goddess accepted his offer of Kheer (Rice pudding), since then the goddess is known as Kheer Bhawani. Due to Ravana's licentious life Maha Ragnya commanded Hanuman to shift the image of goddess from Ceylon and place it at Tulmul, a sacred place. Annual festival of Jesht Ashtami is held during May-June, when according to a belief the goddess changes colours of spring water. The pandit community of Kashmir hold the goddess in high esteem and visit in large number during the festival. Tourists pay homage at the temple site during the trip to Sonamarg.

Manasbal Lake (32 km) off the Ganderbal-Sonamarg road is the placid Manasbal lake. 4km long and 1.2km wide lake is famous for lotus, water nuts and colorful migratory birds. Believed to be deepest lake as its depth is measured to about 12.8km at some places. The shikara ride in the lake offers most fascinating scenes of surrounding nature. A wonderful park in front of the lake makes it most pleasurable picnic spots for the locals and the tourists alike.

Naranag Ruins: Ancient ruins of shrines near Wangath 50 km from Srinagar is to the west of Kangan. Some of these temples were built by Jaluka son of Ashoka in 3rd century while others are dated to pre-Karakota periods. Vishnu temple at the site is said to be constructed by emperor Lalitaditya. This spot is a famous picnic spot for school children and local people of the valley. A private hotel and restaurant offers stay and meal services for the visitors.

The Gangabal Trek (Krishansar- Vishansar- Gadsar- Satsar- Gangabal)

Famous Gangabal trek starts from Sonamarg across the Sind river with the steep Nichnai Pass at 4080 m. Rough trek of 15 km from Sonamarg will certainly make you stop at the first visible campsite in the area. Passing via Vishansar Lake at 3680 m and further to Krishansar Lake at 3819 m (14km), a marvelous campsite urges you to stop overnight. A 23 km trek to **Gadsar Lake**, 3900 m, passes through steep climbs followed by a rapid descent, where after the magical Gadsar Lake appears, mostly full of broken glacier masses. The lake is surrounded by the mountains and vast valley which is full of multifarious wild flowers. In 1988 I along with other team members in Indo British expedition (British Schools Exploring Society) stayed for about a week to survey the area. While Botany students researched the flora I was in the geomorphology team (fire) surveying the dimensions of the lakes, altitudes, soil and stones. The glaciers in the Gadsar lake break off regularly during summer which could be dangerous for those who get excited to swim in the lake. Sometime the lake is also referred to as Yemsar lake. A trek of 17 km via Satsar Lakes, 3600 m, passes through Gangabal valley, where the view of Harmukh Peak is breathtaking. Few kilometers walk will

take you to Gangabal Lake 3570 m at the foot of Harmukh. A plain campsite amidst the valley is an unforgettable experience. From Gangabal, a 17 km tough descend leads to Naranag, where ruins of Buddhist temples built by Jaluka, son of Ashoka and also by King Lalitaditya are still present. 5 km further down is Wangat 2050 m, from where a metal road leads back to Sonamarg via Kangan and to Srinagar. You can easily hire a registered guide and ponies from Sonamarg for this 4 to 6 days Gangabal trek which is open for the trekkers and explorers throughout mid-Summer. A short trek in Gangabal valley leads to a lesser known lake of **Kusharsar**.

The trek is famous among the foreign, domestic and local trekkers as it offers most enthralling sceneries and adventure. The guides and ponies can be arranged from Sonamarg. Proper trekking gear - water proof tents, sleeping bags, packed food, cooking gear, sturdy shoes and the assistance of prearranged registered guides through a registered travel agent is recommended. Best trekking period is between June to August.

Paragliding: Some areas in Jammu and Kashmir region have been considered ideal for the paragliding. Sonamarg, Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Harwan (Srinagar) have the ideal winds and slopes that make the gliding most exiting for professionals and in some places simple for the amateurs. In Jammu region Sanasar, Patnitop and Kud are favorite places for aero-sports activities. The training camps and completions are organized by J&K Tourism department for students and interested individuals.

Sonamarg: Best time to visit: April to October.

Legacy of Mount Harmukh

One of the toughest peak to climb in the

valley, with an altitude of 5148m, and coordinates 34°24'8"N 74°54'33"E. Mount Harmukh is situated in the valley. The mountain has Nund Kulsar lake on one side and Gangabal lake on the other that has captivated travelers and saints for centuries. Harmukh was first climbed by Col Montgomerie in 1856 when he took his first observation of the Karakoram series from this mountain and discovered mount K2, the second highest peak in the world. Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas George Montgomerie was a British surveyor who was on an assignment of Great Trigonometry Survey of India as a lieutenant in 1950's.

Word Harmukh means "Face on all sides" According to Hindu belief the ancient name of the peak is Harmukuta which signifies the Shiva's diadem. As it is believed that lord Shiva lived in Himalayas, Harmukuta is said to be his abode. A tale connected with this peak is that, "a saint trying to climb the peak to see the lord Shiva, had failed after several attempts. After some days saint saw a nomad coming down from the peak who had been looking for his goat. When the saint asked him about what he saw there, he narrated that he saw a couple milking a cow and drinking it in a human skull. They offered some milk to the nomad which he refused to have, after which the couple stuck some milk on his forehead and left the place. The saint instantly touched nomad's forehead and licked the milk. It is said that the saint attained Nirwana and disappeared in a blink of an eye".

Mount Haramukh lies in the northwestern Himalayan range and has the river Sind on its north and river Neelam to its south, the sources of these rivers is said to be the Gangabal lake which gets its water from the glaciers on Harmukh peak. One of the route to the peak is through the Gangabal and Nundkul lake which is connected by 2-3 days' trek from Sonamarg via Nichnai pass and Gadsar

Lake. Another route for the mountain is from the Naranag and Wangat which passes through the Buth-sher gully, a steep uphill climb. The easiest route considered is through Arin village in Bandipora, 47 km from Srinagar, where after an 18 km walk through jungle leads to the base camp of the mountain.

Fascinated by this peak since my journey to the Gangabal lake through Vishansar Krishansar lakes from Sonamarg with the British Schools Exploring Society in 1988. At Gangabal lake the Mt. Harmukh is predominantly visible and makes ones heart go for its unique extent. During the expedition while camping at the Gadsar lake, our Fire leader Dave informed us to get ready next morning for a trek to nearby mountains. After climbing the highest peak in the range our team of five trekkers sat for a while as it was a clear sunny day. Just in front of us, a breathtaking range of high altitude mountains was visible. Dave started jumping from one point to another, finally he shouted at us and said "Look that is the K2 peak" in the Karakoram Range. That moment was out of the world, it was clear for some time and then the cloud hid the peak within seconds.

A trek to these lakes and mount Harmukh can be organized with help of tour operators in Srinaga. For climbing the peak one must have high spirits, absolute physical fitness, basic training of mountain climbing, right time and an excellent team to climb with.

Amarnathji Yatra (Route II)

The shortest and now most trekked on yatra route for Amarnath pilgrims, Baltal 'below a mountain', 15 km from Sonamarg at an altitude of 2743 m, is the base camp of Amarnathji yatra. The meandering trek of 14 km from Baltal leads to the Holy Cave of Amarnath. One can easily return same day by early

evening to Baltal where ample tents and fabricated hutments are available at affordable price by private owners and Shrine Board. Ponies and dandies are available at the fixed rates from registered ponywais and dandiwalas at Baltal. Free langars, Medical facility, telecommunication and other necessary amenities are available at Baltal during the yatra period organized efficiently by the concerned state authorities. Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and some private companies now operate Helicopter Services for Yatris from Baltal, Pahalgam and Srinagar during the yatra period at reasonably fixed rates. The advance reservation for helicopter service is recommended; however the confirmation of flights entirely depends on weather conditions and the technical feasibility of choppers. The state government schedules Amarnathji Yatra every year from end June to mid-August.

During the Yatra period yatris must carry adequate packed dry eatables, warm clothes, rain proofs, prescribed medicines and sturdy pair of shoes. A set of oxygen inhalers to be carried along is highly recommended. Presence at high altitude during yatra causes breathlessness to even the normal and healthy pilgrims particularly at the Holy cave. The traffic police and district authorities retrain the commencement of vehicular traffic during yatra period on the Srinagar- Sonamarg road to ensure the smooth movement of the yatris on both sides. Yatris are advised to check the timings in Srinagar before journey.

How to Reach

The bus service is available upto Kangan where after one can take the mini coaches and sumos for Sonamarg and nearby villages. Tourists are advised to hire a sumo or any other suitable vehicle from Srinagar from a taxi stand or Travel agent for this 3 hours one way journey.

The road to Sonamarg is open through April to November provided the snow has been cleared from the roads in winter. JKSRTC has sightseeing service for the tourists during the summer which starts at early morning from TRC Srinagar. During Amarnath Yatra yatries with permits and tourists with the hotel reservation are allowed to proceed during the evening. Tourist's visiting for day tour must start early morning from Srinagar.

Where to Eat

Hotels have in-house restaurants where all kind of meals can be ordered, Snowland, Glacier Heights, Green heights and many other newly built hotels are situated on main road. JKTDC restaurant at TRC and at the Thajiwas offers sumptuous meals for the visitors and groups. At the main market some shops provide bread and breakfast for the travelers traveling on the Leh highway.

Where to Stay

Sonamarg has very few private hotels and guest houses mostly spread around the main market. JKTDC cottages and tourist bungalow at main market and Thajiwas are available for the tourists during summer. Some of the newly constructed resorts, tented colonies and cottages available from Kulan to Sonamarg offer luxurious rooms in charming surroundings. Homestay concept has also been initiated by the tourism authorities in the nearby villages.

During Amarnath yatra (Jun-August) getting a room on spot could be impossible as the yatries and travel agents make the advance bookings. The Sonamarg Development Authority and some private entrepreneurs make the arrangement for the tented accommodation in the area.

Some Hotels & Restaurants at Sonamarg

(Courtesy : KHARA , KHAROF, JKCA & Others)

ALPINE RESTAURANT, 0194-241726

FRIEND'S PUNJABI DHABA
Wayil, Kangan, 9419092255, 9906527517

GLACIER HEIGHTS Sonamarg,
0194-2417215, 9419088217 Res: 2419224

INTERNATIONAL HIMALAYA CAMP
Sonamarg, 2418267, 2418334, 9419005703

KANGAN VIEW RESTAURANT
Kangan, 2143701, 9419563407

NEW GLACIER RESTAURANT
Sonamarg, 2417215, 9419088217
Res: 2419224

SNOW VIEW GUEST HOUSE & REST.
Mamar, Kangan, 2479650 (Sgr.),
9419078813, 9906597499

SNOWLAND, Sonamarg,
0194-2417262, 2417233, 2472591, 9419515284
Telefax: 0194-2417233
Email: hotel.snowland@yahoo.com,
Hotelsnowland@gmail.com

SNOWLAND RESORTS, Mamar,
0194-2472591, 9419089811, 9622833613
Email: booking@snowlandresorts.com
Website: www.snowlandresorts.com

SONAMARG GLACIER
Sonamarg,
2417217, 2417218, 09419515248
Email: hotelsnowland@yahoo.com
Website: www.hotelsnowland@gmail.com

SNOW VIEW
Mamar, Kangan,
9797977982, 9906770519
Email: sunflowervalley2007@yahoo.com

Important Contacts:

STD Code : 0194
Tourist Office : 2417322
JKTDC : 2417208
CEO, SDA : 2417291, 2417208
Police Station : 2417241- 42

Yousmarg

42 km, 2377 m

Yous indicates to a saint called Yusu who travelled through this valley to Kashmir, and marg means a meadow. Yousmarg mesmerizes tourists with its scenic meadows, a sparkling reservoir and mountains comparable to European Alps. In the district Budgam, situated amidst Sang-e-Safed valley, Yousmarg is reputed for some of the highest peaks in Pir-Panjal range like Tatakoti 4725 , Romesh Thong 4700m and Sunset Peak 4746m. The mighty river Doodh Ganga rising from these peaks flows through a gorge behind the plateau and a tributary of this river flows into the reservoir on the front-side of the meadow.

The word 'Yus' is said to be indicative of 'Yuzu' or Jesus PBUH. It is believed that Jesus PBUH passed through this valley while traveling into Kashmir with the chosen people of the Lord. A major trekking route from Yousmarg lead to famous spot called Tosa-maidan, a large meadow used for cattle grazing. This area is connected through rough routes to places like Gulmarg, Poonch and Doodh Pather. The springs in the region are famous for medicinal qualities the most of the region has its drinking water supplied from the springs. The natural slopes of Yousmarg offer rugged skiing opportunities to experts. School camps and adventure tours are organized in the valley for week to fortnight for exploring the thrilling areas and trekking routes. A day trip to Yousmarg is now added in the itineraries by tour operators , a visit to this secluded tourist destination is recommended. Stay in personal tents is recommended for the nature loving travelers. The expeditions to the various peaks in the area can be arranged through travel agents in Srinagar. Horse riding in valley can be lot of fun , even

children can try their skills with the support of able ponywallas. The charges per round or for a specific time period are reasonable at this destination. Most of the visitors have found it most charming tourist spot as it has more rugged beauty to offer .

Mettalic hilly road of 12 km from Tsar-e-sherief passes through the pine forests and rugged villages. Visitors are advised to carry rain proofs during the trip as the frequent change in weather occurs at this destination.

Places of Interest

Doodh Ganga: A river at distance of 2km from the main meadow is approachable on foot yet the visitors prefer horse ride to roaring river amidst dense forest.

Nilnag: A short trek of 4km to Nilnag a small lake amidst pine trees, near a hamlet gives an ultimate pleasure to a visitor. Ponies are available at the main meadow for the visitors.

Frozen Lake: A full day trek from Yousmarg to frozen lake in Sang-e-Safed (white stones) valley is quite fascinating one. The lake is usually covered under icebergs throughout the year. Trekkers are advised to carry tents and sufficient food to this high altitude lake with the assistance of a guide.

Tsrar-e-Sharief: Shiekh Noor-ud-Din Noorani RA popular as Nund-Reshi or Alamdar-e- Kashmir was born in 1378 AD at Kaimuh a village in Anantnag district. 30 km from Srinagar, the road to this shrine passes through the karewas of Budgam. Nund Reshi was patron of the Sufism in Kashmir who showed disinterest in worldly matters from childhood and renounced the world at an early age of 12 in search of divinity of God. He was an illiterate and yet spontaneously uttered concise and

rhythmic verses called 'Shruks' which are considered of high value in Kashmiri literature. His famed saying on environment protection 'Ann poshei talie , yalei wann poshei' (Food will sustain only when jungle's sustain) has been most publicized thought in Kashmir for environment protection. The original shrine is said to have been built in the reign of Akbar and the adjoining mosque constructed by Afghan governor, Atta Mohammed Khan. After the devastating fire incident during the nineties shrine was raised to ground and the present building was reconstructed by state authorities with its original grandeur.

Where to Stay

JKTDC cottages at the main meadow are the only reasonable accommodation available in Yousmarg, just couple of private guest house near the main area also provide accommodation facility. Adventure lovers will find this appropriate for camping, tents can be pitched in nearby area at the main meadow.

Where to Eat

JKTDC cafeteria is the only place to have the proper meals at. Continental and Indian vegetarian delicacies are available for the visitors at economical price. Few of the shops and cafes near by provide quick snacks to the visitors. Visitors are recommended to carry packed food items. Tour operators that plan the cooking arrangement for the groups must carry all necessary items as there are very few shops with limited supplies at Yousmarg.

How to Reach

Tourists are advised to hire a taxi from Srinagar at taxi stand or from travel agent for this 2 hours journey. The regular bus

service for Tsar e Sherief starts from Batamaloo bus stand . The Sumo service from the taxi stand near Iqbal park operate on per seat basis upto Tsar e Sherief. The sumo service to Yousmarg is limited and operate usually on full booking basis.

Important Contacts :

STD Code : 01951

Tourist Office : 255203,

Yousmarg Dev. Authority :

Police Station Tsar e Sharief : 243223

Police Control Room : 255207

District Hospital : 255235

Doodh-e-Pather

42km, 2450m.

42 km from Srinagar in District Budgam, Doodh-e-Pather is a marvelous bowl shaped valley. The shepherds from different areas travel to this place along with their cattle and stay here for days together. It is believed that the cattle grazed at the meadows of Doodh e Pather produce rich milk in large quantity, for this reason it is called the 'valley of milk Doodh (Milk) e Pather (valley)'. This valley is connected to Gurez and Poonch on its north by adventurous trekking route. The spot has been attracting travelers for long time, however it has recently been declared as a tourist destination. Off the Srinagar- Airport road, route to Doodh e Pather passes through the famous villages of Budgam. Crossing most revered shrine of the area Khan Sahab, metallic road upto Yarikha (32km) passes through rugged villages, where after a rough stretch of nearly 12 km journey offers spectacular view of the valley. Visitors can relish a cup of tea at the kiosks during peak season at the main meadow. The area is inhabited by Gujjars nomads who are also care takers of

cattle of the villagers in summer. A full day trip to Doodh Pather with packed lunch and some snacks could be a bonus of your visit to Kashmir.

Best time to visit: April to October

Places of Interest

Gogji e Pather : A picturesque sparsely populated village, which also serves as base camp to the main destination 'Doodh e Pather'. The farms and streams make this spot worth stopping at for a while.

Shrine of Khan Sahib: Shrine of Hazrat Syed Saleh Khan RA, who was born in 11th century, migrated from Pakistan region to Kashmir valley in 16th century and became the disciple of Baba Naseer-ud-Din a prominent seer of the times. Khan sahib meditated in a cave where the present shrine has been built. Few kilometers from Budgam town, shrine is on the way to Doodh-e-Pather. Annual festival 'Urs' for one week is celebrated in the month of Zeeqad at the Shrine.

Shrine of Shamas Faqir RA : A noted saint and poet of Kashmir born in 1832 in Chinkra Mahal, Srinagar. Shamas Faqirs has given valuable collection of poems that depict purity of soul and closeness to Almighty. Though he was an illiterate but his poems have become a part of rich Kashmiri literature. One of his famous couplets is

"Makka Madinas Bar chi wathye, neari latiye roaf karan"

(The doors of Mecca and Madina are wide open, oh my friend, come out and sing).

Shamas faqir gave up domestic life and used to live and meditate in mountains and far off villages, he died at a village in Budgam in 1901.

Where to Stay

The night stay at Doodh Pather is possible only in personal tents. The place is not suitable for the night stays due to absence of infrastructure in and around. Homestays are possible at the nearby villages with the assistance of a Travel agent.

Where to Eat

Tourists are advised to carry packed food. During the peak season having a cup of tea with a quick snack at some kiosk is possible.

How to Reach

Organised tour with assistance of a Travel Agent is recommended. Adventurous ones can hire a sumo vehicle at a taxi stand. It is about 2 hours journey from Srinagar to Doodh pather.

Doodh Pather: Best Time to visit:
May to August

Important Contacts

STD Code : 01951 (Budgam)

Tourist Office : 255337

Dy. Commisioner

Budgam : 255205, 255203

Police Station Khan Sahab : 277240

Police Station Budgam : 255223

GUREZ

Distance: 143 km, Alt: 2700 m

Ultimate adventure destination to the north of Kashmir, Gurez, is a gateway to the famous silk route across central Asia. The pyramid shaped peak named after famous Kashmiri poetess Habba Khatoon is most fascinating peak in Gurez. The roar of mighty Kishan-Ganga River flowing across the valley resonates with surrounding mountains and lulls visitors to a sound sleep. The traditional log wood houses make Gurez look like an European country side.

Kishenganga river has a length of 180 miles that rises in extreme eastern Tiel and flows westwards joined by Raman Sind and Burzil stream. Kishenganga River starts and re-enters in Pakistan via Gurez valley. 20 km from Gurez, the awesome villages of Tiel have log wood houses which perfectly add to the magnificent view of mountains full of pine and fir trees. The new road from Gurez to Tiel has been extended upto Drass in Kargil region. The rugged and tough life of people in Tiel living aside a stream makes one realize the resilience of mankind. The trekking routes from Gurez and Tiel lead to Gangabal valley and Sonamarg to its east. On northern side of Gurez lay Drass, Dahanu and Zaskar valley which are also connected by the adventurous treks.

People of Gurez valley are of Dard origin who speak Sheena language and have their ancestral connection with the Gilgit valley now in Pakistan. Though Gurez is a far flung area yet the people of Dard race have uplifted themselves by the hard work and proper education. Dard women are fair with athletic built, who spend summer in collecting wood from mountains for the harsh winter, when it is impossible to move out in 20 feet snow outside.

Kishenganga river offers easy level of stream for Rafting and tough one from Tiel. Some areas in Tiel valley have mountains suitable for Rock climbing. Trout fishing is a frequent sport among locals who throw an localised line without a rod to get descent meal for the day. Anglers can be delighted to catch a brown trout in the Kishenganga River or the streams coming down from the mountains. Gurez has lovely campsite where tents can be pitched near the river. The department of tourism plans to start skiing in area for adventure lovers.

The legend of Habba Khatoon Peak: A beautiful & intelligent damsel of Saffron villag Pampore who learnt holy Quran by heart at an early age and recited verses in her sweet voice. Zoon 'a moon' was daughter of a peasant who got her married to an illiterate peasant boy. Zoon was ill treated by her mother in law and husband as she spent most of the time in poetry and singing. Dejected by her plight she approached a saint who changed her name to Habba Khatoon and presumed her as the queen of Kashmir.

The emperor of Kashmir Yousuf Shah Chak (18th century) was enamoured by the beauty, intelligence and poetry of Habba khatoon. He got her divorced from her cruel husband and married her. The musicians and singers of the royal court groomed her to a complete poetess. Habba Khatoon contributed musical compositions, Sufiana Kalams and Kashmiri songs particularly on romantic theme.

*"Meh ha ker schai kith, posh e daswaanai"
Chhau mein danai posh"*

"I have done up my self with flowers for you, relish the beauty of these flowers oh my love"

Arrested by the army of Mughal emperor Akbar, Yousuf Shah Chak and taken

through the mountains of Gurez to Patna in Bihar where he breathed his last and was buried there. This devastated Habba Khatoon. It is believed that she wandered on the banks of river Jhelum, fields of the valley and reached in the valley of Gurez waiting for her beloved. Her songs uttered the words for lost love :

"Ghah choun wuchan gatti, aki latti yeham naa"

(I look for you oh my love in storms, I wish you to come once).

Twenty years later the great poetess died in grief and sorrow. Her poetry still remains alive in the hearts of people. First Kashmiri feature film Habba Khatoon was made about 25 years ago. Later famous Indian filmmaker Muzaffar Ali made a remake of film by the title of 'Zoon'. Habba Khatoon continues to be a legend of love in Kashmir. The Habba Khatoon peak in Gurez is a most photogenic that resembles with stature and beauty of the poetess of Kashmir.

Getting there

For 7 to 8 hours journey from Srinagar, one has to take Sumbal-Bandipur road. Bandipur town at a distance of 58km offers spectacular view of Manasbal lake and the part of Wular lake. An uphill journey from Bandipur to Razdan pass (3300m) has breathtaking view points where one can stop for the photo shoot. Shrine of peer Baba atop the Razdan pass is looked after by army regiments on duty in Gurez area. The saint had come from Lahore in 1933 and was buried at Razdan Pass. The downhill road from Razdan reaches a small village called Kunzalwan, where the border is just across the hills. The famous river Kishanganga flows through the village. A plain road journey of more than one hour makes a way to spectacular Dawar village, the district headquarters of the Gurez valley. Traveler are advised to obtain the permissions from Police/Army

headquarters in Bandipur or seek the assistance from tourist office at TRC Srinagar. A visit of 3 to 7 days in Gurez valley is most desirable as the place is ideal for trekkers and adventure lovers. There are no hotels or guest houses in the area, waterproof tents for the night stay must be carried along with other suitable requirements for the travelers.

Tourist Reception Centre at Dawar

JK Tourism has setup a TRC at Dawar the Block Head Quarter to facilitate the tourist in Gurez Valley. More information and assistance can be taken from J&K Tourism Office at Srinagar. Travelling in groups and the assistance of guides is highly recommended. Travel agents in Srinagar can make the suitable arrangements for all inclusive tours.

Where to Stay

Tourism Department has recently setup a tourist reception centre, a guest house and few log huts for the facility of tourists. The Advance booking is available from tourist centre at Srinagar. At Gurez real contentment is staying in the tented accommodation. Home stays could be the best alternative at Gurez and Tulel with prior arrangements through a Travel Agent. All inclusive tours are highly recommended.

Where to Eat

Travel agents and Tour operators organizing the tour must carry sufficient stock as per the food tastes of the visitors. There are just few local cafes where one can have bread and breakfast and common/regular meals in main market Dawar.

Important Contacts

STD Code: 01957

Gurez Police Station: 245271

Police Station Bandipur: 225278

Dy. Commissioner (Bandipur)- 226085, 226051

Gurez Explorations

By Faheem Jeelani

While walking along a stream, in afternoon sunshine, that carried waters of Habba Khatoon spring, on the base of eponymous pyramid shaped peak, a couple of ladies sprawled indolently beside the Queens spring. Biting on the head scarf the sunbathers looked preposterously beautiful, as if aping the insouciance of the monarchs and courtiers who enjoyed this leisure back in the 16th century, with their imperial airs, the resident damsels appeared to be the inheritors of Habba's colossal beauty.

We had been actually walking for an hour or so, that's what my calculation was. You see it isn't difficult to get engrossed in this ancient land of Dards, having chosen Gurez as our destination, with an eye to capture Habba's imagination, meandering as she used to be in these ravines centuries ago, singing pathos in memory of her prince Yusuf Shah Chak, I was searching for: eyes open, senses glued; Tzche kemou sone myane bram nith neo nakho.

A little earlier in the day, when mid-day sun was brimming bright and clouds still had not gathered around craggy peaks at Line Of Control, we had come back from what was the last Indian picket on the border- where the lieutenant ordered us to seek his officers permission. I protested and dragged Shawl and Akhter from there. I could not understand why we had to flash another piece of paper to have a glimpse of our own land, just across a ridge. The sentries, senile and ugly behavior added. Akhter would bring it up in days to come, very often- a missed opportunity that he saw in it. My resentment had a reason, since arriving in Bandipur two days earlier, where there were no taverns, no hotels, no pleasure boats to row on the quaint Wular lake, everyone seemed to be amused about our trip- the glaring eyes pooping on our backpacks. A permit card from the district police officer was required to travel further, we were told by our grey faced lodge owner. We

understood the security concerns and thus approached the district police HQ at Bandipur.

Our wide smiles and visible enthusiasm soon waned, like sun does, behind the whirling clouds of late spring Bandipur afternoon- once we were behind high walls and barbed wires of the freshly varnished cream colored building- whose gothic alleys reeked of spurious liquor and echoing invectives of the sentries. It would take us at least two days to get the required pass, we were told. The queue was long. - 'It is an ill-planned travel. I had warned you', Akhter protested. A bearded police constable offered some help. - 'Come tomorrow morning. I will do something. Matter of some chai', he shouted even as we walked away in increasing darkness towards our shanty lodge. Shawl rang up someone while Akhter continued with his rants which were starting to annoy me now. 'Tomorrow morning at 9 we have to meet SP, Permit will be ready', Shawl shouted after dropping the call.

Knowing people around helps and no one other than Shawl knows how to use it. I've always been amazed at his network and the ease with which he gets work done. Years of honchoing at big IT corporates he would often credit. We were in Gurez the next day afternoon, with its shops and ancient dressmakers, shanty lodges behind which sprawled lanes on either side by rickety wooden structures. The eerie of silence broke every now and then by a scurrying monstrous Ley Land army truck. Our stay at the guest house was pleasant. Newly constructed and built in stone a single storey edifice offered much more than what we expected, more than 120 miles away from Srinagar. The six hour drive from Bandipur though was arduous, every vertebrae of our back, crying on the drudgery of the road.

Ascending on the Razdan pass led us through sparsely dense pine forests. The jungle robbery was done in day light, here. The pass, 1100 feet above, was bracingly cold even in May. At the pass, on our right there was M L Steins favorite Mohand Marg and Mount Harmukh; on left the plains of

Kupwara and Handwara and facing us were the sparsely visible peaks of Nun and Kun in Nubra Valley- Ladakh. If the landscape had yet to mesmerize us, the first glimpse of a Dard village (Kanzalwan) almost flicked a switch in me. I could over hear Habba. The village and the setting was fairytale style. Log huts sprawled on either side of the Kishen Ganga river, the mist flurrying along their withered wooden fences. Lilacs and daisies grew alongside the flossy green moth by the roaring river. Due to the unusually late thaw, wild flowers were only just coming out on the hillsides.

Toying with Habba's songs in effervescent weather, we drove into the valley of Gurez- with its dark brown cultivable fields in this milder climate, hazy uplands, steep gorges and the town of Dawar at the distance- which seemed mostly of one-two storey houses with graceful upward curving eaves. I thought about the violence of history and the resilience with it, the response to hate and suffering this ancient forgotten place lives with it. We pulled up in front of a culvert at Village Badwan - home to Habba's mother. From here the pyramid shaped mysterious mountain named Habba Khatoon stood still. There were number of folklores associated with this mountain, one of which I heard from a friendly old farmer, while taking an evening walk around the tilled fields the next evening.

It is said that once moon poured magical silver colour on the purple fields of iris, and workers sang while plucking berries in the garden, Zoon and Yusuf Shah would walk. The emperor endowed by the beauty of Habba and Gurez, looked above at the starry skies, that glowed the expanse in rapturous vanity. At this the Mountains spoke and trees bowed- the eyes of the lovers met. The emperor in a spontaneous outpour of love, kissed his mademoiselle, and named the shimmering mountain in distance, as Habba Khatoon. The folklores of Habba and Yusuf Shah continue to reverberate in this land with quite a few versions. Land that is siphoned off from the civilizations, clinging to its own history'

We spent next couple of days loitering around Gurez, making friends everywhere. Our cook, Nazir Gurezi, was a young boy with hopeful eyes. His Seekh kebabs for breakfast were remarkably delicious. So was his green spinach that he cooked on the day we left, simmered on home-made ghee. Exploring the landscape around Dawar:, Markote, Achurr and Cherwan ancient Dardic villages that played an important stopover on the famous silk route, for centuries. The houses were made of log wood, thudded over one another, clothing was mostly suited for winter. The striking features of this original Aryan race are the first thing that can catch a traveler's eye.

The view across the pine covered mountains; It was intensely quiet, this moment. I tried to absorb to what I was deeply attached to, even if it made me feel miserable. If ever I had wanted a brilliant, vindicating spiritual experience; my heart leapt towards it. There is no great importance attached to many such caves, that are man-made carved into these mountains- which are very surprising and immensely sad. Gurez having a strategic location on the silk route may have housed some Buddhist council meetings, if that may give some clue. The last such council held at Sharda in around 300-400 AD, is only a few miles away from here, on the other side of the border.

**The write up is a part of my blog
Frenzied Reflections-
<http://faheemjeelani.blogspot.com/>**

Other Excursions & Lesser Known Destinations in Kashmir

Tral 30km from Srinagar off the Srinagar-Awantipur road, Tral is famous for Almond tree and honey. The shrine of Shah Hamdan built by Syed Ali Hamdani RA in the town is most revered by the people. A large number of Sikh community lives most cordially with the Muslim majority. Tral falls in the district Pulwama (Rice Bowl of Kashmir)

Shikargah, an attractive tourist spot 3 km from Tral, used to be a game park for hunting during Sikh reign.

Nagberan 2km from Tral town, is a favourite picnic spot of the locals. Aripal Nagh, a famous spring that oozes out from Wastoor-wan (small hill), its water is used for drinking purpose by the people of Tral.

Payer Temple : 3km south of Pulwama, the hindu temple of earliest times is said to have been built out of a single stone. Pulwama district is off the National Highway famous for paddy fields.

Shopian

A newly formed district, 51 km from Srinagar and 20km from Pulwama, this old town played a vital role in trade between Srinagar and Lahore when the Mughal road was open in past. Shopian is known for production of good and large quantity of Apples. The Shopian fruit mandi dispatches loads of massive trucks with apples to different parts of India and world. Jamia Masjid of Shopian has wonderful architecture which was built during the Mughal period. Shopian is another famous apple town of the The word Shopian is derived from 'Shah Piayan' which means Royal Stay, has been old traders town being situated on the centuries old Mughal Road. At an altitude of 2057 m, Shopian town and its villages are connected through different routes to nearby areas of Pulwama, Anantnag and Kulgam. After Sopore, Shopian is also called chotta London for having some of the wealthiest people in valley. Many foreign brands cars can be seen driven in this apple town. The Mughal road has opened a new era of education for the local youth who study at Baba Gulam Shah Badshah university in Rajouri.

Ahrabal 2400m (51km) About 18 Km from Shopian, is at an altitude of 2266 m in Pir Panchal. Ahra means 'Stream' bal means 'resort'. Ahrabal has most magnificent water falls formed by veshav river coming down from a height of 24.4 m. A day trip is advisable to the spot. Tourists are also advised to stay away from the river and the mighty fall for its furious flow.

Kounsarnag Lake; 35 Km off the Shopian Mughal road a village leads is the enchanting Kungwattan meadow which further leads to the mesmerizing Kounsarnag Lake at an altitude of about 4000 meters in Pir Panchal range. Kounsarnag lake is the source for Veshav river which flows through Ahrabal. The lake has a shape of foot, which according to Hindu Mythology is believed to be the foot of Lord Vishnu, for this reason the lake is called Vishnu Pad.

Trek de Kounsarnag

(A True Story by -
Mohib Khan and Aadil Shah)

Trek de Kouser nag That's what we named this Expedition. We constantly changed the dates of the trek over and over again mainly due to bad weather, tight schedule and many other unavoidable circumstances. Finally, we left on 29th June 2013 for trek to Kounsarnag Lake. We started our expedition from Aharbal at around 12:30pm and reached our base camp (Mahinag) in 3 hrs. It was an easy trek when compared to other trekking expeditions we had been on. We pitched our tents, had tea, clicked few pictures and later had dinner to get a sound sleep - unaware of what was waiting for us the very next day.

At 6 in the morning, we had tea and Lawaasa (baked round and crispy

bread), headed towards the lake at around 7:30am. During our trek, Aadil Shah and I were discussed how easy the route was as compared to steep slopes we had face before on other treks. Aadil kept on saying that the trek was is trek too easy , I and Aamir also agreed . At about at 11:15am, we were there - the largest alpine lake in Kashmir, surrounded by snow clad mountains and absolutely beautiful was just in front of us like a most precious jewel amidst mountains. All of were delighted to reach to such magnificent place after a soft trek of around 4.5 hrs.

Another group of trekkers also we met there was of Salman and Fehad. Aadil knew Fehad and as they spoke, I found myself engrossed in the surroundings, not paying attention or saying a word, and gave a nod to both of them. Like hi, hello, yeah and okay. After a moment we were on the large sized glacier anchored to the lake and to a very big rock. What will happen next, none of us had thought, none of us could imagine. Aadil handed over his camera to Salman as his was not working. We took some pictures, had something to eat and then decided "It's time to go back". But, it was not our time to go back! Salman was the first to notice that the glacier had drifted from the shore. I couldn't believe what was happening. Another piece of a small glacier was moving and I could have jumped on to it, I jumped back on the rock to which the big glacier was anchored. I would have been safe. I don't know why I didn't. I was looking at it as it passed, although it was drifting away slowly I couldn't make what was happening so fast. I looked back at Aadil and Aamir, screamed at them to come to the edge.

Five of us were stunned to the core, looking at almost 7-10 feet gap between

the glacier and shore. We saw the Gujjars (nomads) running towards us and we kept on looking. Aadil and I thought of diving and swimming back to safety. "*Pehley tu ja*" (You, go first), I told Aadil and he said the same to me, "*nai tu ja pehley, mai tere peche aunga*" (No, you go first, I'll be right after you). If it was some other situation, I would have argued. But this wasn't any other situation. This was LIFE or DEATH. I took off my shoes, pulled off my socks and stocked them in my pockets. Aadil was ready too as he put all the gadgets, mobile phones and cameras into his wind stopper. He intended to throw his wind stopper at the Gujjars on the shore, so they would be s passed, minutes passed, and we kept on looking at the freezing water safe while he jumped. This was easy, I thought. 7 feet! We can dive, we can swim. WE CAN DO IT.

Seconds passed, minutes passed, and we kept on looking at the freezing water of the lake, feeling the chill in our numbed feet. We can still do it. JUMP! JUMP! JUMP! My heart or my brain cried, I couldn't make out what was it. But I didn't, I couldn't. May be, were thinking about the other two guys who didn't want to jump, "*Mei chuk kalas gasaaan dum aabhe seath*" (I suffocate whenever I go in the water), Fehad said. He wouldn't jump to the shore. "*Kuch bhe ho, mai jump nai maronga, mai isi glacier pey rahonga*" (Whatever happens, I will not jump in the water, I'll stay on the glacier and rather die), Salman said. Maybe I was scared or maybe I was thinking, about the others who refused to jump.

Mostly though, I was too scared. One of the Gujjars stopped us after we had paused for far too long, assuring us he'll get a rope. The glacier was drifting

away from the shore slowly like needle of the clock. We were 20-30 feet away when Gujjar returned with a rope and threw a small stick and asked us to pitch it in the snow. We did exactly that, then he threw the rope, but it was short by almost half of the length. They tried to tie their turbans along with the rope, but we were moving away and it never reached us. This will not save us, we all thought in despair.

At that time Asad, a member of Fehad and Salman's trekking party arrived on the other side of the glacier. He was stunned just like the rest of us. We asked him to contact police or anyone and everyone who could help us. At a point Aircel connectivity was visible. We calculated that we would have to stay on the glacier for at least 2 hours before we would be rescued. Zaid, a member of our party arrived right after. He didn't know what had happened. He thought we swam to that glacier which was afloat in the lake. Even he clicked some pictures including some self timer shots. As he rushed down and to his horror he realized that we needed help. He said "*Tension nai lo, mai call karunga papa ko*" (Don't worry, I'll call dad). And he rushed back.

We had to stay strong though, if we had to survive. Everyone reassured each other that it'll be alright. We were drifting away at a fast pace. "*Manz bhag rozev*" (stay in the middle of the glacier), everyone on the shore shouted at us. The cold wind was blowing and we didn't have warm clothes. Just in T-shirts, shorts and tracks. We did Tayammum (dry ablution) and prayed, and on our first prostration the sun shone and we felt warm. Allah! Thank you Allah! We prayed to Allah to save us. It grew cold again and at almost 1.15 pm we offered Namaz. We completed

our Zuhr namaz and sun was shining again.

It was happening. We were praying to him and he was answering us. Faisal, another member of Fehad and Salman's party was at the shore. Fehad and Salman shouted at him, "*kahin nai jana*" (Don't go anywhere). And he stayed there, right there till the end. We were talking to each other, trying to divert our minds from what was happening. Fehad said, have you seen Cast away? Perfect! We joked and tried to be strong. Aadil asked both Fehad and Salman where they lived, where they studied. Getting to know people on a glacier that is afloat in a lake far away from shore is a great way to make friends! Fehad kept on saying what he'll do when he's back and i replied "*Agar hum bachey, toh*" ("If we survive, then"). I told them "*Mai toh upar sey akela hu, koi behen, koi bhai nai hai*" (I am the only son of my parents, no sister or brother) and they smiled. Coincidentally, Aadil had even conversed with Fehad on Facebook, days before the trek, saying "*see you IN Kounsernag*". "*IN kounsernag*", I thought. Everyone knew that they had to keep strong, if anyone of us cried or lost even a bit of hope, everyone would lose hope. But then the unthinkable happened. A bit of the glacier that we were on chipped off and fell into the waters with a thud. It shook the glacier. I could see the fear that gripped in that moment on everyone's face. We were going to die! But then it stopped shaking. And with a long sigh, we gave each other a faint smile. Not yet, we thought!

We were drifting away and communicating with Faisal and the others on the shore became more and more difficult. We counted 1,2,3 and everyone shouted "*Faisaaaaaaal*". And

then again on the count we shouted "kya hua" (What happened), "kitna time" (How much time?). And he replied "arahey hai, khabar pahunchi hai" (They are coming, they know what has happened). 1 hour more we thought. 1 hour more! Aamir was grim, standing a little distance away from the rest of us looking towards the shore. I went to him and hugged him and said it's going to be okay. It was getting colder and the clouds were rushing in. What about visibility for a chopper, if there was one.

Our spirits were dampening. We tried to keep our cool. But what if nothing came for us? How could we survive the night? It will be very cold, icy cold. No warm clothes. We kept on praying, asking for help to come. But instead, clouds. Dark, black clouds accumulated on the far end of the lake. It was going to rain, thunders had started. Fehad asked, "Glacier ko kuch nai hoga na, thunder se" (Nothing will happen to the glacier due to thunder) I didn't know but I said "No, nothing will happen to it, it's quite thick, this glacier!" I was hoping to be right. I said "The glacier is so thick it will stay like this for 5-6 days, don't worry." Everyone was thirsty; we were on the glacier for almost 4 hours now, no help came. There was pure water everywhere around us, but we didn't dare go near the edge and drink it.

Aadil looked into his side pockets and found a "raisin" packet. We smiled. He distributed it equally, although some got a few more pieces! No love lost, though! Our knee joints were almost locked and we tried to move here and there, get our blood flowing. What will happen to us? Suddenly, the clouds started to gather all around us. We couldn't see the shore. We prayed for help. We constantly prayed. I hadn't prayed that

much in my twenty four and a half years as I did in those four and a half hours. Will I see my parents and my loved ones again? Then within a blink of an eye it started raining in cats and dogs. We crumbled on a little space on the glacier, right in the middle, trying to keep ourselves from getting wet.

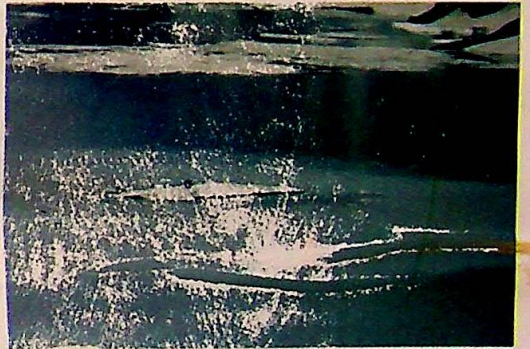
Then the tiny hailstones were hitting us. Salman and I stood close preventing ourselves from the hail and the rain. No warm clothes, no rescue. We were going to die. We will die tonight, I thought. We might never see our parents and loved ones ever again. It will be a painful death. O Allah save us! Please! It rained harder, dampening our spirits. We had never imagined that we could possibly die this way. I will never see them again. I will never see anyone again, is all what I was thinking about. A cloud of emotions running through my mind and I couldn't react. But we kept on praying, asking for help to Allah. After a while the rain stopped, hail stopped, the clouds passed away, the sun shone brighter than ever and right there from the mountain a chopper flew in. Aadil shouted and our eyes were locked on to the chopper. O Allah! Is it possible? Yes it is. It was nearly after 4.5 hours. "Allah hu Akbar" was on everyone's lips. We all hugged each other. Our eyes were filled with emotions, and tears came rolling down. We were saved!

The chopper scaled the area twice before it landed on the glacier. We prostrated at that very moment. Thank you Allah! There was the pilot, another person in a life jacket, and a doctor at the back. Thumbs up! 4 seats in total. Aadil went first, we saw the chopper flying away. We laughed and hugged each other over and over again. And then it hit me, one person at a time. Who

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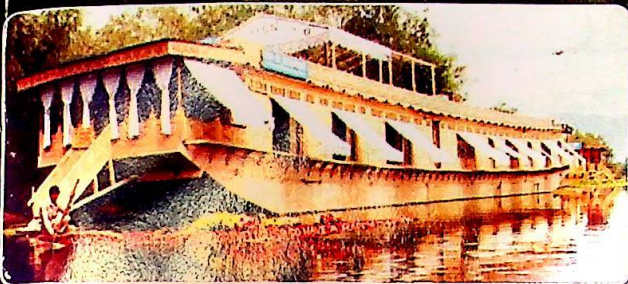
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Mughal Road



Peer ki Gali



Aliabad Sarai



will go last? Aamir and me decided that Fehad will go when the chopper would come back, followed by Salman. I told Aamir you can go after Salman but he refused. He wanted me to go first. I argued and he argued back and said we shall see. The chopper returned but now with 2 empty seats.

The doctor at the back had also landed with Aadil. Aamir and I looked at each other and smiled. Fehad and Salman boarded the chopper and it flew again. Aamir and I hugged each other again. And I mustered whatever was left in me and said, "dude we are safe". And we both laughed. The chopper came again. I told Aamir to go first but he refused again. I didn't argue this time and I crawled to the chopper and buckled myself in. Aamir came right after, after a minute we landed on the ground. I thanked the pilot, the diver and the doctor. We offered Namaz of shukraana (Thankfulness to Allah). Everyone surrounded us, the other trekkers, Gujjars, they took pictures, offered us food.

We were safe. We were told later, that nobody had been saved in this lake before. Nobody had gone that far in the lake and come back alive. Without Allah, it wouldn't have been possible. Without Asjad and Zaid, it wouldn't have been possible. Without the help of the Air Force, Indian Army 62 RR, the civil administration it wouldn't have been possible. Without the people on the shore and their prayers, it wouldn't have been possible. It was a Test from Almighty and we learnt a lot. We had the Best Experience ever that no one even in their wildest dreams could imagine. We do take this as a lifelong learning and for our Future endeavours.

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Mughal Road

Road used by Mughals and other kings to conquer Kashmir is between Poonch in Jammu division and Shopian in Kashmir division. This road used to be a major trade link for the Kashmir, Jammu and Lahore during pre-partition era, it originated from Mughal capital Agra (UP).

41 Km from Shopian at an altitude of 3505 m is **Peer ki Gali**, a fascinating picnic spot on the road. This spot is favorite stopover for the travelers on the road and is just perfect for a day trip from Srinagar. Just 05 KM before this spot lies a centuries old **Aliabad Sarai** in a steep downhill valley from the road. Sarai or inn has been made during the reigns of Akbar which served the purpose of overnight stay for the travelers.

The reopening of this road has reduced the distance from Poonch to Srinagar from 588 km to 170 km. The distance from Kashmir valley to Poonch & Rajauri has shortened to just 76km. The road passes through famous **Baflaiz pass (Alt; --)**, 84 Km from Shopian (39km east of Poonch). The name baflaiz is said to be after the favaruote horse 'Bunifales' of Alexander the great, who is believed to have died at the pass. The road has some most fascinating pristine forts, Sarais and tombs that were constructed on the route by the travellers and the emperors. The education avenues for students in Srinagar, Rajauri and Poonch have broadened as they can easily commute to universities and institutes offering courses in different streams to youth of J&K.

Some avid travelers prefer to travel from Jammu to Srinagar via Mughal road which is almost 325 Km distance with

lesser traffic and better road conditions. The road has become favorite adventure drive for young motorcycle riders .

Wular Lake

(60 km), situated between Bandipora & Sopore, this is the largest freshwater lake in India, spread over an area of 125 sq km (length 24 km, breadth 8 km). Circumference of lake 48km is full of mountains and dense forests. Zaina Lank an island built by Sultan Zainulabidin in 1443, is said to have been built as a storm refuge for boatmen in the lake. Legend describes Wular as a 'cave' where a city was once swallowed up by the earthquakes and floods. Wular is a mystic lake that still finds some takers who are interested to see its vastness and admire its surroundings. The water nuts grow in a large quantity in some portions of lake, this provides bread & butter to many and a nut to relish for others.

Bandipur

Situated on the banks of Wular Lake , Bandipur is 65 km from Srinagar via Sumbal road. The main town has been part of the famous Silk route in early times. The renowned Forest Research Institute of J&K and the Darul Aloom is situated in this district. Towards the eastern side is the most attractive Mount Haramukh which has been attracting mountaineers for ages. The Arin Nallah in the region is famous for Rainbow, silver and gray trouts, angling is allowed subject to procurement of permits from fishiries department. Bandipur town and its surrounding villages offers spectacular natural scenery and enthralling village life of people.

Baramulla

80 km from Srinagar, Baramulla is one of the biggest district of the valley and has the highest yield of horyiculture produce. Another town on the river Jhelum has some of the best schools like St joseph, Sainik shool and Kendruiavidyalay. The word Baramulla is combination of two words Barah or Varah "Boar" and Mullah or 'Mul' that means root or deep. It is believed that the Lord Vishnu assumed the form of a boar and desiccated the mountain at this place to bring out the water to capture the demon in Satisar. Baramulla was known as "Gateway to Kashmir" as it used to be a stopover in past when the road to from Rawalpindi , Abbotabad, Muzafarabd reached Baramulla which was the first stop in the Kashmir valley. Many renowned travelers like Hieun Stang, Moorcroft, Francis Young Husband and emperor Akbar and Jehangir have stayed in Baramulla while traveling to the Vale of Kashmir . The 132 Km recently opened Baramulla-Muzzafarab road has started a new era in getting the people of both parts of Kashmir nearer who were deprived of meeting each other due to conflict between India and Pakistan.

Sopore: 52 Km to North-west of Srinagar City, this apple town of valley is famous as "Chotta London" for its most modern houses and well off families. This affluent town is in the Baramulla district, it is said to have been founded by Suyya an engineer & irrigation minister of Utpala dynasty during King Avantiverman reign in 880 AD. Surrounded by Lolab valley and Bandipur has river Jhelum flowing through the town making it rich in every aspect. Sopore has many muslim shrines spread around the valley.

Kulgam

65 Km off the national high way , this newly formed district has been homeland

of many learned saints and writers. Kulgam has attained its name from saint Syyed Simnan Sahib, who lost something in streams of the village which are spread in entire area. Kul means stream and gam a village, where others believe 'Kul' indicating the clans of the region. Kulgam is connected with many villages in districts, Anantnag, Pulwama and Shopian.

Budgam

A district southwest of Kashmir that shares nearest borders with the Srinagar city. Off the Srinagar -Airport road at Humhama, road leads to the Badgam. The area has some of the famous tourist destinations like Yousmarg and Doodh-e-Pather the region has some splendid trekking routes and valleys. Khag, a valley of pastures and dense forests is situated in Beeruwa tehsil of district Budgam, an ideal place for the trekkers. Pehjan is another valley of meadows in the area which is famous for the medicinal plants. During the clear weather one can have view of the Wular lake and the high peaks of Pir Panchal range. The area is famous for the springs having fresh drinking mineral water which is used by the people for drinking purpose. Some of the famous springs are Sukhnag, Pushkarnag, Naranag. Gandakhnag which is a sulphur spring has medicinal properties that cure the skin ailments. There are several streams and rivulets flowing through the region which serve irrigation purpose to the area.

Nakwear Pal: Famous historical site situated atop a high mountains of Khag valley, Nakwaer Pal (the nostril rock) is on the way to Pehjan. It is said that in the earliest times when Kashmir valley was a lake, boats used to be anchored to the rings fixed in rocks at this place, the iron hook still exists at the site. Local people and the Gujjars can be seen in the area for the cattle grazing and collection of wood.

Tosamaidan: Valley of pasture with dense forests situated 10 Km from Khag, a trekkers paradise has a approach thorough the high passes that lead also to areas in Poonch and Punjab. Used for grasing of cattles from ancient times by the people of the nearby countries the valley is around 3miles long and 1.5miles wide. The valley is inhabited by the Gujjars during the summer time for cattle & sheep grazing. The valley has become a favourite trekking area for Kashmiri youth. A famous spring of Sutharan situated in the region has legendary story associated to Lord Rama. It is believed that during the Banwas Lord Rama passed through the valley along with Sita and Laxman. The spring got its name from the belief that Sita used to bathe in the spring.

Kupwara

One of the biggest district of Kashmir valley (areawise) is situated about 90km from Srinagar approachable off the Srinagar-sopore road. Kupwara is surrounded by Pir Panchal and Shamsbari mountain ranges. The district has some most fascinating valleys full of meadows, streams, passes, forests and wild life. The area has mostly the Kashmiri speaking Muslim population, there are also good number of Kashmiri speaking pundits and Sikhs in the area. The district has tehsils of Kupwara, Hhandwara and Karnah.

Lolab Valley

7 km from Kupwara town surrounded by dense forest mountains, mostly Deodar trees. Lolab means 'lovelful water', signifying the love and beauty of this unexploited destination. Stretching accros 25 Km from northwest to southwest A cave in the jungle of the area is called *Madmadow* which is believed to be a underground route from *Kalaroos* to Russia. The door to these caves is the

Satbaran (7 doors), visible with carved doors in the large rock formation. 19 Km from Kupwara, Satbaran can be reached by road till Kalaroos village and 1.5 Km on foot. Chandigam is another charasmatic valley about 25 Km from Kupwara. Rangwar Lalpora village in the region is known for its green pastures , wild flowers and a stream.

Bangus

115km from Srinagar at an altitude of 3500m situated on the other side of the Lolab valley is a virgin valley called Bangus. Around 20km wide and 15 km long surrounded by mountains the valley has rugged terrains, dense forest, lush meadows and murmuring streams. Word Bun means forest and Gus indicates the grass. The area has the line of control at a very close distance. Bungas valley has a large number of streams like Roshan Kul, Tilwan Kul and Doud Kul which join join the Kamil river and further form the Lolab stream. The adjacent villages of Karna, Keran and Tangdar situated in Kashmir valley are connected by treks and paths to Bangus which offers fascinating and picturisque scenes. 7.5 Km from Chowkibal, Kupwara, Drangyari is another tourist spot which has some unique bird species and some famous historical places Bangus is being developed as a tourist destination by the concern authorities and a golf course is set to be established by the tourism authority. The JK Tourism has setup up Tourist Bungalows and cottages at several places for the overnight stay and the local transport to these places is not so regular. It is ideal for trekking, camping and safaris. Limited Bus service from few villages of Handwara town are used by the local people, a sumo can be hired from the Kupwara town or from Srinagar. Travel agents assistance is highly recommended.

Best Time to Visit: April to October.

How to Reach

The daily bus services from Srinagar at Panthachowk, Batamaloo and JKSRTC stands commence to all district headquarters and further on to the distant areas upto where the metallic roads have been laid. The Sumo service from selected taxi stands frequently commence on all the routes. From some district headquarters to nearby villages mini coach and tonga service is also available. Travelling in groups with the assistance of Travel agent is highly recommended.

Where to Stay

There are just few Rest houses owned by government in the towns at all the tourists places. The home stays would be the ideal solution for the travelers. Tents can also be used for the stay purpose. Travel agents assistance is highly recommended.

Kashmir Railway Line

The train service in th valley has been operational recently from Qazigund via Anantnag to Srinagar (Nowgam) and further on to Budgam & Baramula. Train service has been benefitting people of these areas and attracted many to have a journey just for fun or an experience. Tourist can also enjoy the charm of the villages through where the train passes.

Tourist Reception Center, Nowgam

On the outskirts of the Srinagar city, 12 km from city center, off the National Highway Bypass (Panthachowk-Bemina) near a place called Nowgam, this modern architectural master piece is situated just across the Railway station Nowgam. The building signifies the traditional Kashmiri

architecture blend with modern grace and decor. There are tourist facility counters of all related services Private Hotels & Houseboats, Travel Agents, Taxi Operators, JKTDC, JKSRTC, JK Bank and the JK Tourism counters. The waiting lounge, washrooms, conference hall and a Restaurant inside the complex makes it a complete "One stop" service centre for the tourists. The Hotel Blocks of the tourism department has several deluxe rooms and suites for the facility of the visitors. At the splendid lawns of the complex the stage is all set for the folk, traditional dances and cultural programs. It will serve as the main assistance centre for the visitors arriving from different parts of India once the railway service gets operational on Jammu-Srinagar track. The visitors arriving from Jammu to Srinagar in coaches and other light vehicle can avail the complete assistance at the Tourist Reception Centre, Nowgam without getting into the traffic hassles of the interior city.

MICE-Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Exhibitions

Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) (7km) located on the banks of Dallake. SKICC has a large auditorium, soundproof conference hall, business centre, cafe, banquet hall, projection room and adequate area for Exhibitions. Rapidly growing MICE activities in Srinagar city has been attributed to the presence of this man made architecture, designed by Joseph Stein. The breathtaking lawns spread near Dallake is the place where open air events and gala dinners are most desired by the top executives and dignitaries. The business center inside the complex has latest documentation and printing facilities fitted with latest computers and software technology. Some feature of the centre include Translation facilities in all conference centre and halls, Projection facilities for 35mm, 16mm and 8 mm films

apart from audio, visual and LCD projection, soundproof press gallery round the clock housekeeping / operation services. Readily available professional secretarian services, Wifi network at the centre and the post convention activities makes SKICC a complete event management center. SKICC boomed the MICE activities in the valley and also bolstered up the tourism industry as every related trade is benefitted. Most of the International, National and State level events are organized here. Adjacent to the SKICC is the Centaur Lake View hotel that offers spectacular view of the Dallake and Zabarwan hills.

Recently another well equipped conference centre at Kashmir University Complex has been opened. Situated at the posh locality near Nigeen lake, has the capacity to accommodate huge gatherings.

Most of the leading hotels and houseboat groups in valley have been involved in organizing MICE related activities for the corporate sector of national and international repute.

Nigeen Club (6km) on the banks of Nagin lake is a master piece of architecture and modernity reconstructed by J&K Tourism. The original club was built by the Britishers at the lavish gardens owned by Deewan family in the year 1900 for the recreational purpose. The new club has a conference hall, restaurant, health & fitness centre, perfectly laid lawns overlooking Nigeen lake and huge parking area. The club has in house café, banquet hall, conference centre, gymnasium, health club, billiards room and a library for the facility of members. The Water Sports center adjacent to the club housed in a traditionally built building has Kayaks and Canoe available on hire for the visitors on reasonable per hour basis. The trainers at the center provide assistance to the water sports beginners.

Tourist Transport

The state Road Transport Corporation Bus stand situated adjacent to Tourist Reception Centre at Srinagar has a large fleet of vehicles, Deluxe and semi deluxe coaches, Tempo Travelers and Hitech Coaches that can be hired for the tourist group movement in the state. JKTDC has good number of deluxe and semi deluxe luxury coaches and tempo travelers which can be hired for the travelling purpose. These two government organizations have reasonable fixed rates for all routes with per day and package basis. Availability needs to be checked in advance. The private transporters running deluxe and semi deluxe coaches on various routes of Srinagar city provide vehicle for sightseeing purpose through travel agents and otherwise. Some of the Transport companies at Lalchowk operate large coaches on Jammu Srinagar route and provide the same for the sightseeing purpose.

A major transport service in the Kashmir valley is now operated at Taxi Stands where SUMO service for all the major towns can be availed at reasonable per seat basis. Package tour bookings is also provided at all registered taxi stands for Qualis, Sumo, Scorpio and Tempo Travellers.

Some Travel Agents also own a large fleet of luxury vehicle coaches and cars which are used for the conducted tours. Car Rental companies like Alkhuddam provide all vehicles of leading brands like, Camry, Corola, Toyota, Fortuner, Skoda, Mercs and the 4Wheel Drive vehicles for the tourists at reasonable charges.

Golfing

A luxury sport introduced a century ago by the Britishers has become a favorite sport of young and old entrepreneurs of valley.

Kashmir today offers magnificent golfing opportunities in three seasons during the year (April to November). The golf courses in valley spellbound the players by charm of environs. 18 hole Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) on Boulevard (6 km), nestled between Zabarwan Hills, spans 300 acres of wonderful landscape that offers fantastic putting experience. Its uncompered magnificence created by surrounding mountains on one side and the shimmering Dal Lake on the other, spellbinds the players of international repute.

The course was designed and laid out by world renowned golf architect, Robert Trent Jones II, who has designed about 500 courses all over the world. The 18 hole, 6445 meter course at a par of 72 offers a challenge to all levels of players who delightfully compete in exotic environs. Besides having permanent members, players can pay green fee on a daily basis. One can also hire Golf Carts and services of caddies. Exclusive golfers can stay inside the Course in traditional and exotic hutments. The club building has separate wings for locker rooms, changing room, Bar and Restaurant, Billiards, Ping-Pong, Pro-shop, Health Club, Swimming Pool and a Spa.

Kashmir Golf Course near TRC is one of the oldest golf courses in India. Laid in 1887 this 18 hole course par of 70 spread over 52 acres is surrounded by the mighty chinar trees.

Yet another 9 hole Mini Golf Course on the Boulevard just before RSGC is favorite course of the golfers mostly used by Police and security forces.

The golf courses at Gulmarg and Pahalgam are actively used by the golfer during summer. The natural slopes surrounded by the pine forests makes it worth to play at. The golf courses at

Sonamarg and Bangus are already in the pipeline.

Competition of International, national and state level are organized every year by the tourism authorities. Some private companies also organize and sponsor the championship during the summer time. The Kashmir valley has produced some of the world class golfers who compete marvelously with golfers from across India and globe.

Doonga Cruise

Doonga, a large boat towed by a motor launch is most entertaining activity yearned by the people of Kashmir. It's a traditional way of partying in the Srinagar city. In early times the Doonga used to be moved by pushing the large poles deep in water by strong men. Doonga was preferred by the emperors for the royal guests. The folk dance & music blend with Kashmiri wazwan on Doonga cruise is catching up again among the new generation and equally liked by the visitors in valley. The conferences, meetings and other business tours are generally followed by the Doonga cruise in Dallake during evenings. Travel Agents can organize a Doonga cruise on request in advance by including the cruise in the itinerary for groups. Some of the world renowned corporate houses have experinced the doonga cruise where authentic wazwan cuisine is served by 5 star hotels to make it more luxurious yet traditional.

History of Trout Hatching in Kashmir

Trout fishing has been attracting anglers over decades, visitors and locals alike have keen interest in angling in the mighty streams of the Kashmir valley. Very few are aware of this fact that Trouts have been introduced in the valley rivers by the

Britishers during the reign of Maharaja Hari Singh. In mid-18th century a number of keen fishermen got together, after several tireless efforts with assistance of state authorities in valley and of the Duke of Bedford in England, succeeded in introducing ova of the English brown trout into valley. Under supervision of Mr. Frank Mitchell a hatchery was established at Harwan, Srinagar, near Dachigam sanctuary in an ideal trout stream area which was preserved for Maharaja's shooting. From these stock ponds a trout weighing twelve and a half pounds was taken on Lord Minto's visit in 1908. In addition aged ova and yearling trout were sent to other streams in of Kashmir - to the Achabal, Beoru, Wangat, Vishu, Kishenganga at Badwan, the Liddar at Aru and Tannin, Marwar, Erin. Yearlings were let out in the Burzil stream, the Gorai (on the north side of the Tragbal Pass), in the Gangabal Lake, and in Punch River.

Anglers have found that hen snow-water runs off, biggest trout takes a fly put to them at right moment. In summer of 1908 a fish weighing two and a half pounds, which must have been one of the yearlings turned out in 1906, was caught in Vishu stream. By both Major Wigram and Mr. Frank Mitchell great attention was being paid to development of trout-fishing. Seeing the success of trout hatching, the Maharaja on the occasion of Lord Minto's visit ordered the importation of the ova of the huchon (*Salmo Hucho*), or so-called Danube salmon. Mr. Frank Mitchell in the spring of 1908 successfully introduced them, and about 2000 were hatched out in the Harwan hatcheries. Some were probably put out in the rapids of the Jhelum River below Baramula as they ran to some 26 lbs. in weight, and were known to be one of the most sporting as well as the largest of the Salmonidæ. As such one of the most fascinating sport in Kashmir valley was developed for the visitors. Today the trout hatcheries are run by state

government under department of Fisheries and many private entrepreneurs have been encouraged to set up hatcheries. Trout is the most sought after fish in Kashmir sold at the government and private outlets at Rs.250 to Rs.450 per Kg. Trout fishing at Pahalgam or Sonamarg region is most favorite of anglers where trout is cooked or barbecued just after catching it.

Specialities of Kashmir

Pheran (from the Persian Pairahan, the long loose shirt) is a popular garment made of pure wool (Pautt) worn by men, women and children during the harsh Winter. Women mostly wear Pherans having crafted designs on neck and border portion with wool/silk of dazzling colours. Tilla work on ladies Pheran is a special and most desired item of womens wardrobe, it's worn on every occasion during winter. Tourists can buy a ready made Pheran from any handicraft shop.

Kangri - portable brazier, a fire pot which is usually held under the Pherans to generate heat during harsh winter. Kangri is made by craftsmen known as kaeneul. Kaen is a special flexible wicker woven around the earthen pot 'koundul' in different designs and colors. Maharen-Kanger is a decorated Kangri , used during weddings and as gift items for bride. Kangris is available as decoration pieces at most of the handicraft (willow wicker) shops in the valley.

'Kehwa' a sweet herbal drink flavoured by saffron and almonds is an all-season household drink served with a crispy 'Sheermal', 'Kulcha' or a 'Bakerkhani' the traditional Kashmiri bakery. Kehwa is generally served on celebration occasions at every household. A strong cup of Kehwa with ample dry fruits , cardamom, cinimum and saffron is a traditional treatment for cough and cold during winter. Kehwa is the most common

welcome drink for the visitors at houseboats and hotels.

Samawar - a large sized copper kettle having a tube in the middle for burning charcoal is used to serve Kehwa and Kashmiri salt tea "noon chai" mostly for large gatherings. A copper Samawar is made by coppersmith with peculiar designs in different sizes for suitable servings. Samawar is considered a prized gift on weddings and other occasions in the valley. A decoration piece of Samawar is most priced souvenir of Kashmir.

Schout and Scouchwour is a small sized, round shaped and full backed bread served with morning and evening tea at every household. The traditional small bread maker called "Kandur" makes this unique type of bread every day, which is distributed to other provision store for daily supply to the households.

Modern bakery shops of the city manufacture variety of cakes, pastries , brownies, cookies, English Breads and even organic bakery. Ahdoos, Hollywood, Mughal Darbar, Jee Enn sons, Jan Bakery and many more on Residency and MA Road are some of the famous bakery and confectionary shops. The people of valley have a palate for sumptuous bakery, during Eid festival people flock to the bakery shops as everyone has to have huge quantity of special bakery to serve to the guests on the festival.

Famous Flowers of Kashmir

"Womens delight and Men's fortune" flowers have been close to the hearts of both genders. The presence of world famous flowers adds charm and splendor to the vale of Kashmir. Lilly, rose, rosemerry, panzy, gladiolus, cox comb, dog flower, caena, Delia, snow balls, lotus and lavender are just few of the varieties found in Kashmir during four seasons of the year. Narcissus, daffodils,

honeysuckle, Tulips and some wild flowers known as werkin, tekbattin & tahri posh are the earliest flowers that announce the arrival of the spring.

The tree with "bred mushk" (*Salex Caprea*) a spongy u-shaped small flower spreads the fragrance in the air announcing the arrival of spring 'Bahaar'. The budding of the trees of almonds and apples creates an ambience of colorful life full of promises after a harsh winter.

History of Handicrafts

Emperor Zain-ul-Abidin introduced art of papier mashie, wood carving, stone cutting & polishing, and also developed the silk, shawl and carpet weaving in valley. It is said that art and craft developed under the patronage of Sultan who brought in the master artisans from Samarkand and Bukhara, he provided all amenities of life to these foreign artisans to popularize craftsmanship in Kashmir. It is said that Zain ul Abidin as a boy Shahi Khan had been sent to Samarkand by his father Sikander with presents for Timur, there he was showered with many favours and at the same time Timur wanted him to stay in his empire. For seven years Shahi Khan stayed in Samarkand and learned himself many things about Arts and Crafts. When Timur died in 1405 AD during expedition in China, Shahi Khan returned to Kashmir and empowered people with the art of handicrafts. Shah Hamdaan also contributed to the development of Shawl making in the valley during the reign of Sultan Qutab ud Din in later part of 14th century. The Emperor Akbar improved the department of shawl making. Jehangir, Shah Jahani and Aurangzeb were also fond of shawls and patronized the industry. The Afghans further improved the industry, during their reign shawls were in demand in Iran, Afghanistan and Russia. The carpet industry got a boost during the reign of

Mughal Emperor Jehangir when Persian knot style of weaving was adopted in manufacturing of carpets. During the reign of Jehangir, a Kashmiri muslim named Akhund Rahnuma during his way back from Hajj pilgrimage via Central Asia visited Andijan, where the carpets were manufactured, he learnt the art and brought the tools and script with him to Kashmir. The artisans of Kashmir learned the art and adopted the Persian way of making carpets.

Shopping

The renowned silken, handwoven knotted **Carpets** are available in magical colours and designs. Carpets are manufactured on the traditional looms knitted by the men 'Qalin-baaf' with a crescent shaped tool called 'aeer', the instruction document 'Talim' is prepared by the master designer in secret code which is impossible to understand by ordinary people. Perfect combination of colored threads, the creative designs, crafty hands and days of hard labour gets into the making of a complete carpet. Silken carpets produce twin shades when turned in different sides, the quality of carpets is also measured by knots per square inch, a double knotted carpet is usually costlier. There are cheaper quality of carpets available in wool and silicon silk at very economical prices. However, if you desire to buy one that would last forever don't mind paying a huge sum for a good cache of Silk carpet.

The famous Kashmiri **Pashmina shawls** have adorned the wardrobes of royal houses and elite in Europe and Asia. Napoleon Bonaparte presented Pashmina to Empress Josiphine. The French Queen, Marie Antoinette, proudly wore it.

Kani shawl's unique weaving gives it a good price tag, this shawl is woven on unique twigs 'Keain' and needs most able

craftsmen. Kani shawl is completed in more than 6 to 8 months. 'Raffal' is a pure woolen shawl used for cold weathers.

Semi-Pashmina shawls are available in attractive designs and affordable price range. The Shahtoos shawl for its production from a mountain goat has been banned for sale

Shawls & Empresses

It is said that the garment seen over the head and shoulders of famous Mona Lisa portrait painted by Leonardo da Vinci is a Kashmiri shawl that could be passed through a ring as a test of fitness and fabric. During the reign of Queen Victoria it was customary for her Majesty to present a Kashmir shawl as a wedding gift to a bride, if her people were connected with the court. It is believed that shawls formed a portion of almost every bride's trousseau (treasure). Similar practice of having a supreme collection shawls for brides and ladies wardrobe, is noticed in Kashmir itself which has further extended to the most of states of India, Asian countries, Europe and America as well.

More Handicraft

The small & large handicraft items made of walnut wood, papier machie, copper & silver work and willow wicker can be fascinating in rooms and offices. Aari & Sozni embroidery (Needle work) kurtaas, suits and sheets are most fashionable ladies items. Crewel embroidery bedcovers & curtains, chain stitch rugs and Namdas will give your room a typical Kashmiri look. The leather from Kashmir gets exported to different parts of the world - jackets, wallets, handbags and gloves are some favorite buys among the visitors. The Jewelry of Kashmir is unique in design and quality-earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings and other articles decorated with the jewels are most fascinating. Precious and semi precious

stones are also sold by the jewelers as per the choice, budget and the zodiac sign of the customer.

Don't forget to buy a Cricket bat. Kashmir is one of the largest manufacturers of bats made of willow wood, some of the bat factories are situated on the National Highway on Pahalgam route. A variety of bats are available in different sizes at reasonable prices at most of the tourist places. Shopping like in other tourist places shopping is much talked about among travellers. Every handicraft business man or a jeweler allures a visitor to make purchase at his setup. The kind of amount a tourist likes to spend is exactly what a shopkeeper will offer.

It better to buy small articles like hand bags, chain stitch and willow wicker items if your budget is low.

Papier Machie is the most desirable and economic craft made from paper pulp catches everyone's eye. The colourful designs and exquisite articles like jewelry boxes, christmas balls & bells, birds, fruits, key chains, pen stands, flower vase and photo frames are available at every handicraft shop. The craft has developed in limited families of old city where one can visit the local factory in the artisans household.

Wood work: The walnut wood carving is the most exquisite art which has developed over the years. Dining table, chairs, a set of tables, wardrobes, houseboats and shikaras, jewelry boxes, elephants & horses, trays and trophies are just few to be named. Most of the handicraft shops have some items available, yet some are specialized in this craft only where antique items are available.

High priced article such as carpets, shawls, jewelry, jackets and large wood carving items one should be ready to shell

out a descent sum of money to purchase a quality product. Bargaining could prove beneficial most of the times at some shops. The handicraft shops and small vendors area available at all tourist places, while purchasing at different places gets you a better feel of the rates and quality its advisable to buy costly products from authentic and registered handicraft shops. In Srinagar the shopping arcades and shops are located mostly on Boulevard right from Dalgate and some in the Residency road area . On the routes to most of the other tourist destinations handicraft shops can be located in large number. Some of the hotels and houseboats have the in house handicraft shops for the facility of their guests. Small time handicraft sellers called Pheri wallas' can be seen on cycles, on the parapets and in the Shikaras selling the variety of items which are most attractive and economical.

Food

Kashmir has been known for the hospitality and service and food has been most essential feature. **Wazwan** a traditional food preparation art is believed to have arrived from Central Asia by the efforts of emperors of past. A course of over 14 dishes, mostly non-vegetarian, Wazwan is served on all traditional occasions at every household. Dishes like Goshtaba, Tabakmaz, Rista, Rogan josh, Kababs, Chiken Dhaniwal korma, and more are prepared out of a particular portion of lamb meat. Vegetarian delicacies in Wazwan include Alu Bukhara (Apricot), Bamscoont (Quinces), Kashmiri Haak (green leave vegetable), Dum Aloo (Potatoes), Mushrooms, Nadru and Tomato Cheese. Vasta waza is the head cook who excels in the art of preparing wazwan in authentic style with the support of 5 to 50 men dressed in white cotton Pheran and Shelwar. Wazwan is cooked in large copper utensils called "Deg" and "Degchi"

put on firewood spread almost over 100 meters commonly known as 'weaer'. The prepared dishes are served on round copper platters called 'Traem' shared by four persons in traditional way of sitting over a 'dastarkwhan'. A hand wash on a copper basin 'Tash' and water poured in a copper jug 'Neaer' is followed by "Bi-ismi-Allah" prayers to start the feast. Though Wazwan has its real taste at a Kashmiri wedding or any function, one can also relish this food at any good hotel or restaurant at Residency Road or Boulevard.

Among the vegetarian delicacies 'nadur' dried lotus stem with high nutrient value is cooked with dal and fish. Dried fruit and vegetables is a specialty of Kashmir-apple, quinces, tomato, bringle and turnip are some of the dried vegetables cooked mostly in winter.

Smoked fish "Pher" is another favorite dish cooked in hot chillies and pepper. The forest fungi, 'Hedur' (*Agaricus* sp) and the 'Kanguench' (*Morchella* sp) collected by villagers from mountains is a delicacy in Wazwan. Harisa minced meat cooked with numerous spices and fats is served hot during the harsh winter at every household. Most of the Kashmiri food items are flavoured with the homemade masala tikki "weaer" which is available at some dry fruit shops at economical rates. Yet another delicacy is "Pach", lower part of lambs leg, which is half burnt by buchers and sold to customers in per pair. Pache is favorite o every household in summer and winter.

For typical Indian vegetarian food, there are many Dhabas and Restaurants on Boulevard and Dalgate area where one can be delighted with variety of Punjabi, Gujrati or pure vegetarian food. At most of hotels and houseboats every type of food from continental to pure Gujarati is provided with satisfying quantity and homely taste.

Chinar

Atanus orientalis Kashmiriana "Bouin", Chinar - is the most gigantic tree found everywhere in the valley. Its growth to a full size (over 100 feet) takes hundreds of years. Known for palm shaped leaves of up to 10 inches in length with pendulous burr like spherical flowers. The shade of Chinar provides cool breeze during summers, its shade has been preferred by most of the Sufi saints in valley and for this reason most of the shrines have more than one Chinar near the complex. Chinar is believed to have been imported into Kashmir during the Mughal period. Chinar leaves symbolise Kashmir's beauty which is why the impression of Maple can be seen in the designs of most of the handicraft articles and woodwork. The famous political figures of national and International fame have always preferred to visit the valley during the autumn season, when the Chinar leaves turn red and area surrounding the Chinar is covered with the leaves. Walking over the fallen Chinar leaves is considered most romantic and a memorable experience.

Fruits

Kashmir is blessed with abundant fruit variety, which has attracted many travelers to the valley. The temperate fruits of Kashmir are known for the quality, flavour, freshness and shelf life.

Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) the earliest fruit in Valley grown at higher reaches by the farmers while some wild Berry 'Chanch' can be picked from a wild bush in hilly areas. Ripe by April Strawberries are valued for easy propagation, early maturity and high yield with 5 to 9% sugar.

Most widely grown **Apple** 'Tsoont' (*Pyrus malus*) of valley is Delicious, well shaped, crispy and aromatic, matures in the month of September. Most popular apple of Kashmir is Ambri, famous for its flavour, fragrance and handsomeness ripens in

October and stays unaffected for a long time. A large sized, crisp juicy and acidic Maharaji apple matures in late October, mostly kept by the growers for self use to relish an apple a day in the harsh winters. American Trel is small, round shaped, very crispy and sweet ripens in September. Golden delicious apple is a taster's choice, ready by October and available in the market till late January, yellow in colour, soft, smooth and sweet has the highest food values.

With variation in size and taste luscious **Cherries** 'gillass' (*Cerasus*) too have different varieties. Mishri, Awal number and double are the most common that start to ripe from month of May and are available up to early July.

Plums (*Prunus communis*) (Santa Rosa) are of different varieties, round shaped, small and large sized are red, yellow and green in colour. Crisp, fleshy, sweet and sour are available during mid-summer. Pears 'Tang' (*Pyrus communis*) are available in late summer, bell shaped Nakh tang is crispy and sweet, whereas 'Bagga Gosh' or William Pears is juicy and fleshy with high fibre value. Creamy with acidic blend having pointed halves Peaches 'Schunun' are harvested in the 3rd week of august. Oblong and crispy Apricots 'Schier' are yellow and ripe in last week of June. Dried apricots are a famous dry fruit available round the year in the entire state.

Waternuts 'Gaeyr' procured mostly from the Wular lake are baked and eaten voraciously by people specially during early winter, the grounded nuts are used to store for the harsh winter. The chestnuts 'Punjab gayer' grow on a large tree in a thorny and spongy cover, a nut with hard layer is produced, during early winter it is half burnt to bring out the delicious nut.

Dry Fruits

Varieties of Almonds (badaam) and walnuts (doon) (Juglans regia) are available throughout the year, grouped on the basis of their 'shell thicknesses. Kagzi, Burzil and Wont are most common Walnut varieties. The walnut kernels are used in confectionary, desserts and also for extraction of oil. Famous Kashmiri Almonds are considered highly nourishing with great medicinal value. Kagzi Badam is the most popular and expensive quality of almonds. Almonds and Walnuts mature with sufficient shell thickness in the early autumn (August). Almond tree bloom is a call for the arrival of spring in valley.

Birds & Wildlife

Bird watching in Kashmir has been a passion for travelers having interest in watching birds of myriad species. Migratory birds from Siberia and central Asia use wetlands of Kashmir during autumn, winter and spring as transitory camps.

Some Seasonal & Diverse Birds species: 554 species of 13 orders, 262 species from temperate and alpine regions are found in Kashmir Valley. Myna, sparrow, Himalayan bulbul, rock pigeon, crow, large billed crow, long tail shrike, hoopoe, cuckoo, kite, long legged buzzard, Eurasian roller, Himalayan wood pecker, long tail Minivet, russet sparrow, European bee eater, bluethroat, rose ringed parakeet. Aquatic Birds- Kingfisher, pied kingfisher, whiskered tern, citrine wagtail, grey heron, little egret, common coot, northern pintail, mallard, black winged stilt, black headed gull.

Some Wild Animals of Kashmir : Kashmir Stag (cervus elaphus hanglu), Hangul is the state animal mostly found in the dense forests of Zabarwan range

which falls in Dachigam wild life national park. The animal had reached to extinction however the effort the authorities and WWF has ensured the protection of the animal. The other animal found in the jungles of the valley are : Markhor (capra falconeri), Musk Deer (moschus moschiferus), Bear, Wolf (anis lupus), Leopard, Snow Leopard (panthera uncia).

Some Auspicious Days & Festivals

Ramadan: The month of Ramadan or Ramzan is the holy month of fasting ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Fasting is done from dusk to dawn, during the fasting hours (daytime) one has to observe complete abstinence from food, liquid, physical relationships and wrong deeds like lying, backbiting, bad intension or feeling towards others. It's for the absolute purity of body and soul. In Kashmir the young girls sing in traditional way "Rauf" on the arrival of the Ramadan. Sweets delicacies and other food items are shared at home and mosque at the dusk after the Zuhur prayers.

Shab-e-Qadar: Holy night of Lailatul Qadar 'the powerful night' is celebrated on 27th night of Ramadan month. The night is considered as the night when the Holy Book of Islam 'Quran' was revealed first time to the Prophet Muhammad (SW) Peace be upon Him. Muslims throughout the night pray at the mosques and their homes.

Idd-ul-Fitr: The festival follows the month of Ramadan when the fasting ends, celebrated subject to the appearance of moon. Word Fitr is derived from Fatar, which means 'to break'. Iddul Fitr is festival of rejoicing, also called Meethi 'sweet' Idd in the subcontinent as sweet delicacies are offered to the guests. Men, women and children attend the Prayers "Nimaz"

at the central mosques. Kids are seen in the new colorful dresses, collecting 'iddi' money from their parents and elders.

Idd-ul-Zuha: Also known as Bakr-Id in the subcontinent and Id-ul-Adha in Arab world. Word 'idd' is derived from Arabic 'iwd' which means 'festival' and Zuha comes from 'uzhaiyya' which means to 'sacrifice'. Iddul ul Zuha is celebrated on tenth day of the month of Zilhaj (12th month of the Islamic calendar). Id-ul-Zuha commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim's SW readiness to sacrifice his son for the sake of God Almighty. When the Prophet and his son were willingly ready to offer sacrifice, a lamb appeared instantly for the sacrifice. Since then Muslims offer the sacrifice of selective animals like lamb, goat, camel, buffalo, bull and others. The meat of the sacrificed animal is distributed among neighbours, relatives and the poor ones. The holy pilgrimage of Haj is performed during the Iddul ul Zuha at Mecca (Saudi Arabia). All muslim men, women and children offer prayers at the nearby central mosque.

Shab-e-Mehraj: The night when the Prophet Muhammad (SW) Peace be upon Him, is said to have been accompanied by angel Gabreil to a journey 'Isra' from Haram mosque (Mecca) to Aqsa mosque (Jerusalem) during the night and having been shown the fate of humans after the day of judgment in heaven and hell during the 'Mehraj' the Ascension. Commemorating this occasion Muslims around the world and in the state pray during the night of 27th of Rajab (Islamic calendar) for the prosperity and peace of mankind.

Shivratri: Locally known as Herat, celebrated by Kashmiri 'pundits' Brahmins at the end of winter months February and March to commemorate the wedding of the Lord Shiva with goddess Parvati. Shivratri lasts for a fortnight, it is common among the Kashmiri pundits to

share the water soaked walnuts with the Muslim brethren and serve the fish delicacies to the guests.

Baisakhi: Celebrated as festival of harvesting in northern India. The festival commemorates the foundation of the Akal Khalsa (Community of the pure) by tenth guru of Sikhs 'Guru Gobind Singhji'. On 13th or 14th of April, festival is celebrated annually in entire north India particularly by the Sikh community. In the state of Jammu & Kashmir, Sikhs take out procession and visit Gurudwaras. On the day of Baisakhi 13th April all Mughal Gardens are reopened in Kashmir after harsh winter, when people of all religion celebrate the festival with much joy at the gardens and other tourist spots.

Dussehra: On the tenth of Asvin (Sep-Oct) as Hindu calendar, Dussehra is celebrated to commemorate the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana at the Lanka. On the tenth day of Navratra, festival is organized at the community grounds and parks in the state by setting on fire crackers fitted in huge effigies of Ravana, his son and brother, Meghnath and Kunbhkaran. A major event is organized at the TRC grounds in Srinagar, when people gather in large numbers to witness the show.

Urs: Locally called 'Warus', is a festival annually held at shrines to commemorate the birth or death anniversaries of various religious Muslim saints. Some Urs's have been affiliated to seasonal changes in the valley, one such Urs celebrated at Batamallu Sahibs is experienced with winds and rain during the day. Similar Urs's are celebrated at many other shrines across the valley, when only vegetarian food is cooked in the local vicinity and at the houses as a mark of respect to the saints or Reshi's, which is famous a Reshimol. (Some Urs' are specified at the respective areas / destinations in the planner).

Kashmiri Language (Koshur)

Mixture of Aryan and Naga script gave rise to Sharda script which in course of time changed into Sanskrit with a mixture of Dardic and later on the Persian script. The researcher Sir George Gierston emphasizes that Kashmiri language belongs to the Dardic and not to the Sanskrit group though Sanskrit has considerably influenced Kashmiri language, he finds more affinity of Pushtu language as well with Kashmiri and specifies the language being called as 'koshur' and not Kashmiri by the inhabitants. Written left to right direction like urdu and has alphabets similar to the Urdu language. Spoken mainly in Kashmir valley and also in Doda, Kishtwar and Baderwah areas of Jammu region. The dialect of the Kashmiri language changes in different regions, towns and villages, in vocabulary and pronunciation.

Some commonly used Kashmiri phrases and words

Warai schukh	: How are you. (informal /masculine)
Warai schekh	: How are you. (informal /feminine)
Warai schuihez	: How are you (formal/ everyone)
Wale yeur	: come here.
Tse keh schui naav	: What is your name.
Kathi schukh rozan	: where do you live.
Yath jaye keh schu naav	: what is the name of this place.
Yi wath koth sche gaschaan	: Where does this road lead to.
Asalam u Alikum (Arabic)	: May blessings of Almighty be on you.
Walai Kum Asalam (Arabic)	: May blessings of Almighty be on you too.
Shukriya	: Thank you (urdu)
Khudda Hafiz	: God be with you (urdu)
Adaab arz mahra	: Hello (common for Kashmiri Pandits)
Aaa	: Yes
Na	: No
Adkay	: OK
Yapear	: This side
Daschun	: Right hand side
Khowur	: Left side
Saduoe	: Straight
Moad	: Curve
Wath	: Road
Dukaan	: Shop

Bazar	: Market
Tresh	: Drinking Water
Aab	: Water
Naag aab	: Spring water
Wandhe	: Winter
Bahar	: Spring
Raetekol	: Summer
Harud	: Autumn
Sheen	: Snow
Tulkatur	: Ice
Rood	: Rain
Taaph	: Sunny
Abur	: Cloud
Kul	: Tree
Kol	: Stream
Daryav	: River
Bache	: Child
Mohnui	: Male
Zanan	: Female
Waqt	: Time
Naav	: Name
Moal	: Father
Moaj	: Mother
Beni	: Sister
Boey	: Brother

Poets & Writers

Poetry has evolved from the illiterate and educated men and women of Kashmir valley. Its origin is attributed to the sanctity & spiritualism caused by the virgin valleys, mammoth mountains & meadows, refreshing streams, placid lakes and charm of the people. These components could be seen as essential part of every poem or a verse. Kashmir has been blessed with some renowned poets and saints of the region; their brief profile can be noted hereunder.

Lala Ded: (1335-1392) Laleshwari, Lala Ded or Lalla Arifa, born in a hindu family in Panderethan, Srinagar renounced her married life. A mystic shivate saint who walked half-nude in public and preached spiritualism and equality of mankind through her verses called "Lala Vaakh". Contemporary of Shah Hamdan, it is said that while wandering naked on seeing Shah Hamdan RA, Lalla Ded cried "I have seen a Man" and thus fled and wore clothes, indicating that there were actually hardly any true men walking around.

Shiekh Noor Ud Din Noorani: (1378-1438), born in Kaimuh village in district Anantnag, a poet called Nund Resh and famous as Alamdar-e-Kashmir or Shiekh ul Allam. His father was Shaikh Salar-ud-Din from the family of Rajas of Kishtwar, and mother 'Sadra moj', both embraced islam under the influence of Yasman Reshi. It is said that when Nur-ud-Din was born he would not take her mother's milk, then the Lala Arifa was called and the child had milk from the breast of 'Lala Ded'. Nund Resh a saint, who established the Sufism in the valley, preached the equality of mankind and devotion to Almighty by his contrived verses called 'Shiekh Shrukh'. He was married to Zia Ded and had two sons and one daughter. On the death of the children Zia Ded also renounced the world and became hermitess. Nund resh died at the age of 63, his body was taken to Tsar e sherief where sultan Zainul ul Abisidin himself led his funeral prayers. In 1808 AD Afghan Governor Ali Mardan Khan minted currency in the name of the saint as mark of respect.

Habba Khatoon: 16th century poetess born in Chandrahaar a village near Pampore, in peasant family named 'Zoon' a moon, separated from a cruel husband, fell in love with the emperor Yousuf Shah Chak. Her poems of union and separation with her beloved are still hummed by the love birds. In her early childhood Zoon studied Quran thoroughly. Her knowledge of Persian and Kashmiri language made her the queen of 'Kashmiri Rast' melody she introduced the Lol-lyric in Kashmiri poetry.

Mahjoor: Ghulam Ahmed Mehjoor (1885-1952) Born in Matregam, Pulwama in a well off family, his father was a scholar of Persian language. Mehjoor a Patwari (land administrator) by profession, simplified form of poetry touched the masses which resulted in major social reforms and revolution. He has been

hounoured as "Shayer e Kashmir" Poet of Kashmir. Some of his famous books are Kalam-e-Mahjoor and Payam-e-Mahjoor, Some of his famous couplets are:

Baghe Nishat ke Gulo, Taap Chawan Chawaan Walo

Roz Roz bozu mein zaar madno, dade chane chas ya bemar madno,

Nazre chane seet bemar balea ket, mane wizi loguth beaar madno.

Mahmood Gami: (1765-1855), lived at Shahbad, Doru, known for his Masnawis, Yousuf Zulaikha is one of his famous masnavi in Kashmir literature. Laila Majnun, Shirin Khushro were among his poems and ghazals.

Rasul Mir: 1840-1865, for his love lyrics is titled as Keats of Kashmir, a poet who fell in love with a pandit village damsel, to whom he could not marry. He wrote his famous poem in her memory 'Rind poshmal gindne drayi lolo' which has become popular even today by its inclusion in bollywood film song.

Shamas Faqir: A noted saint and poet of Kashmir born in 1832 in Chinkra Mahal, Srinagar. He also preached Sufism and love for mankind through his poetry.

Maqbool Shah Kralwari: 1802-1877, born in Kralwari village situated on the banks of Doodh ganga river, some of his famous writings include, Gulrez, Grestnama, Pirnama, Baharnama, Mansoornama.

Ahmed Batwari: 1838-1918, born in Batwara, Srinagar, son of a landlord, contributed to Kashmiri literature by his spiritual writings.

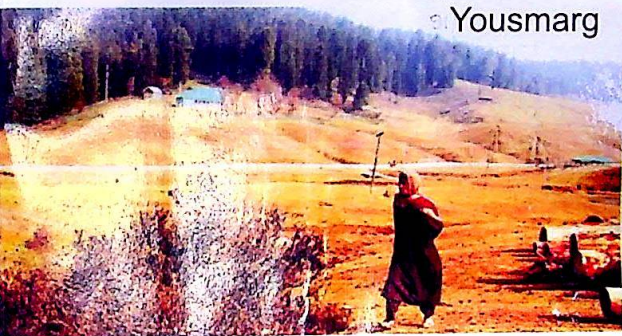
Samad Mir: 1893-1959, born at Narwara, Srinagar was a famous sufi poet of Kashmir known for his outstanding versified work Akanandun.

Arnimaal: 18th century poetess who had

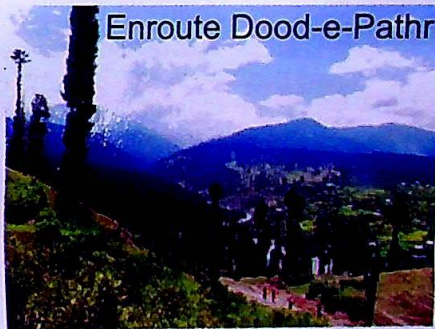
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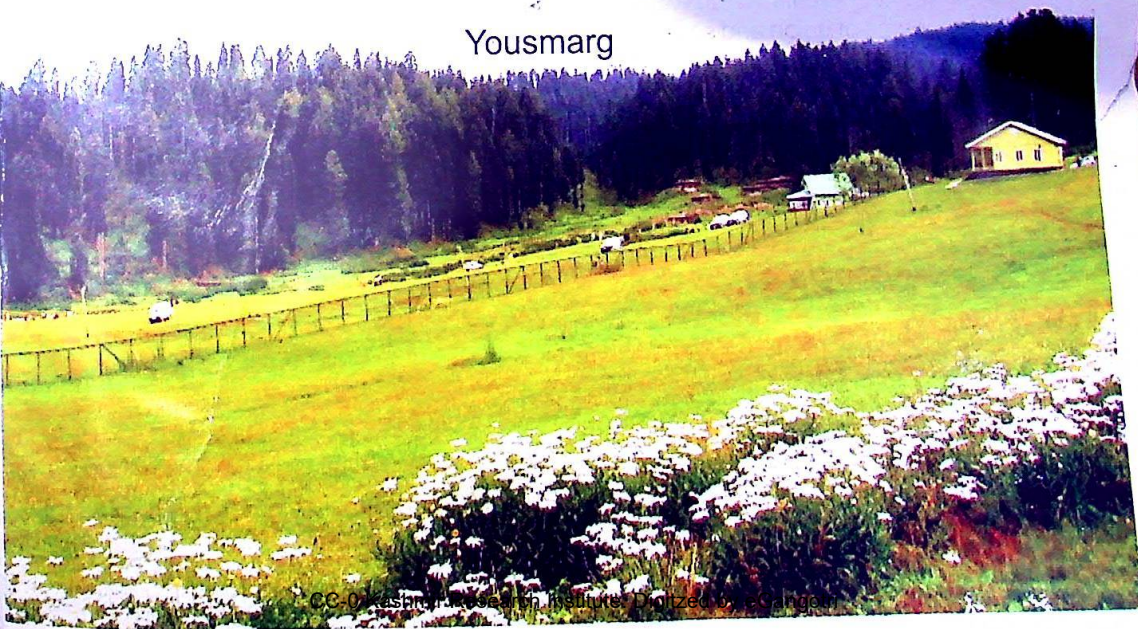
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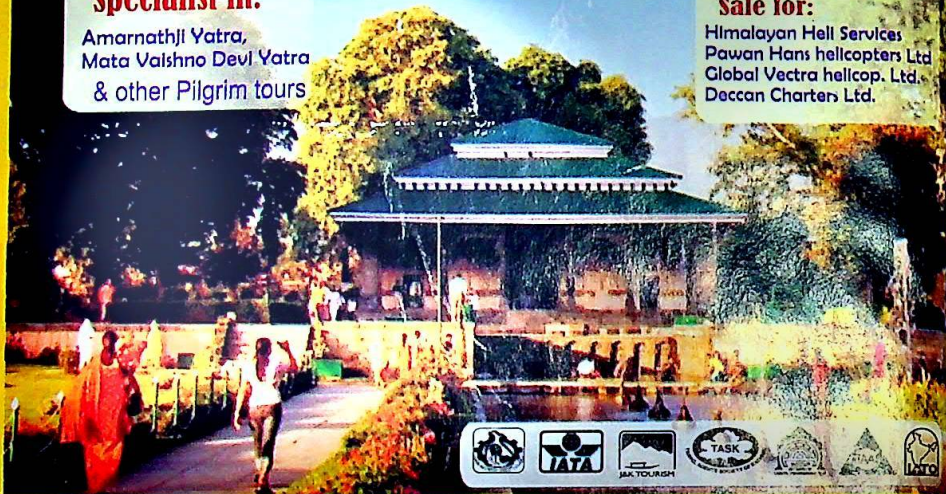
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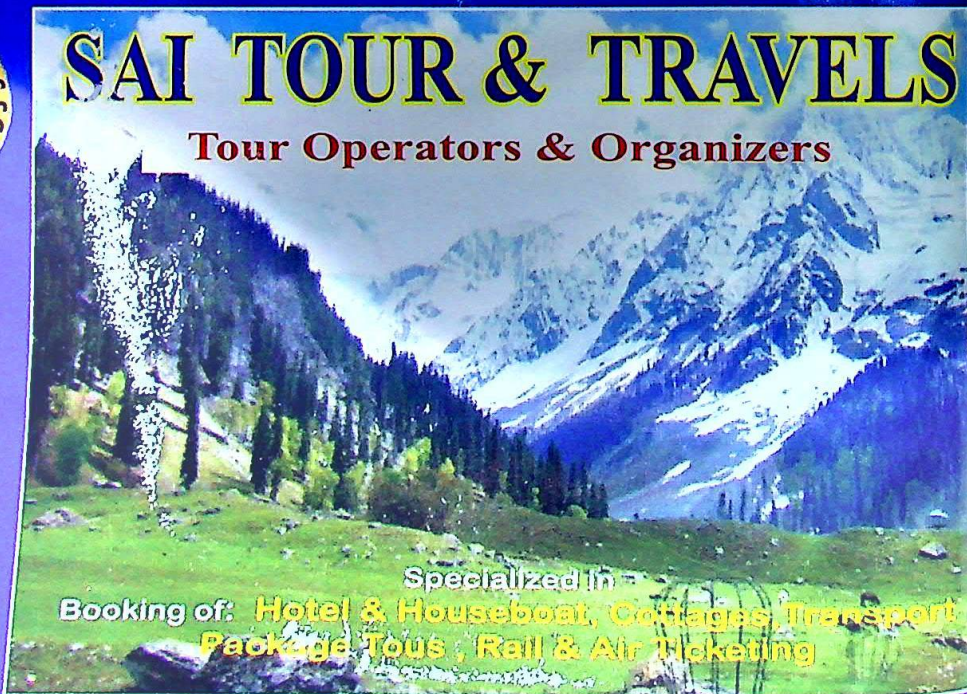
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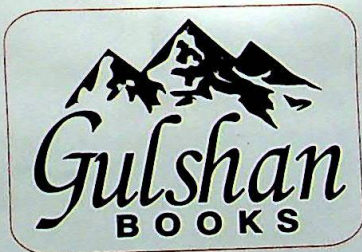
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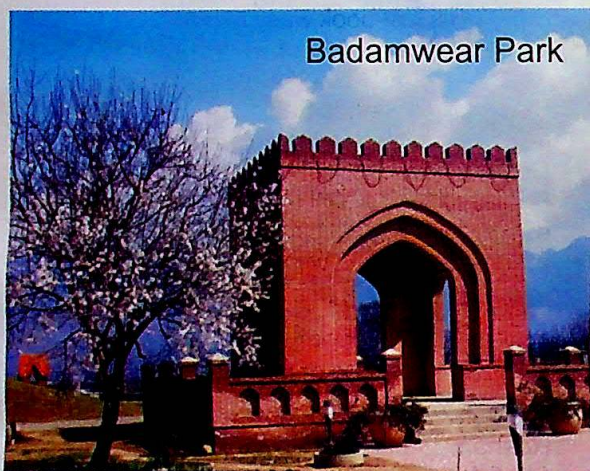
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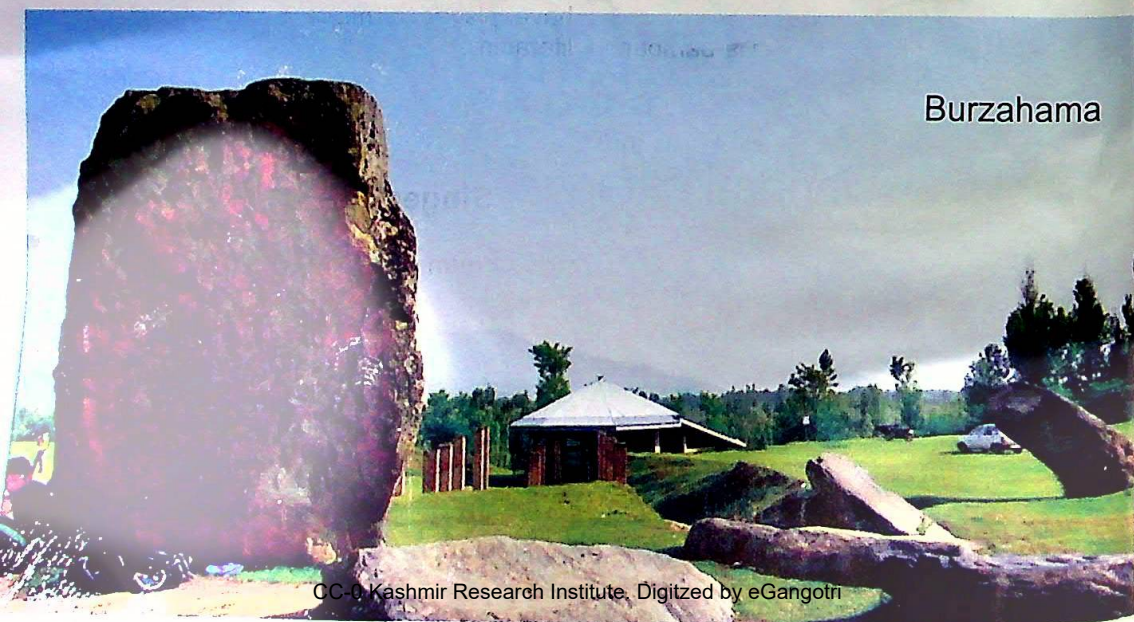
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Burzahama



great impact of Habba Khatoon, Arnimaal was wife of Munshi Bhawani Das, a learned Persian scholar during Afghan rule in Kashmir. Love lyrics of Arnimaal are treasured in the Kashmiri literature.

Ramzan Bhat: Author of the famous ballad 'Akanandun' hailed from Dharamunah near Soibug, Budgam,

Ahad Zargar: A famous poet of 20th century, his poetry was inspired by spiritualism. Born in 1882 at Zoonimar in Srinagar, Ahad Zargar had a short time formal education yet he remained under the guidance of the renowned ulemas and the saints of the valley. The poet passed away on 21 November 1983, his grave is located at Narwara in old city. Gul-e-Sonobar, Molvi-nama, and Akanandun include some of his famed works.

Abdul Ahad Azad: Head master from Ranger, Budgam, a socialist and a revolutionary poet, who projected his poetry against the atrocities of Dogra kings on people of Kashmir.

Zinda Koul: a teacher and poet popular as 'Masterji', educated people through his literary works and at class rooms as well.

Dina Nath Nadim: Awarded 'Soviet Land Nehru Award' in 1971 by USSR for revolutionary poetry, he has many famous lyrics to his credits one of them is 'bambur Yamberzal', Bhambroo Bhambroo.

Motilal Saqi: (1963-1999), born in Bijbehara, a poet, scholar, encyclopedic who worked for the cultural and literary heritage of Kashmir.

Rahman Rahi: a Kashmiri poet, scholar and a teacher born on 6 march 1925 in Sher e Khas of Srinagar, Prof Rahman Rahi is recipient of highly honored national awards. He received Indian Sahitye Academy Award in 1961, Padma Shree in 2000 (Indias highest literary award), Janpeeth Award in 2007. His

contribution has given impetus to the Kashmiri language and literature.

Agha Shahid Ali: (February 4, 1949- 8 December 2001) a Kashmiri poet, educated from the University of Kashmir, University of Delhi, earned his Ph.D. in English from Pennsylvania State University (USA) in 1984, and an M.F.A. from the University of Arizona in 1985. Had teaching positions at nine universities and colleges in India and the United States. His collections include A Walk Through the Yellow Pages, The Half-Inch Himalayas, A Nostalgist's Map of America, Rooms Are Never Finished (finalist for the National Book Award, 2001). His last book was Call Me Ishmael Tonight, a collection of English ghazals. Translator of Faiz Ahmed Faiz (The Rebel's Silhouette; Selected Poem), He was the editor for the Middle East and Central Asia segment of Jeffery Paine's, Poetry of Our World. Agha Shahid Ali expressed his love and concern for his people in The country without A Post Office, written in the backdrop of the Kashmir conflict.

There are many other renowned poets like Gh Nabi Firaq, Noor Mohammed Roshan, Gh Rasool Nazqi, Amin Kamli, Shafi Shaida, Farooq Nazqi and others have played a major role in world of literature.

Singers & Musicians

Raj Begum: Twentieth century Kashmiri singer, one of the first female singers whose husky voice took away hearts of millions of listeners through her singing on radio Kashmir. Was awarded Padma Shri in 2002. Her old song Bumbroo Bumbroo, sham rang Bumbroo, has been remixed in a Bollywood movie lately.

Gulam Hassan Sofi: A voice that enthralled the millions of old and young hearts for years and continues to be living in the hearts of the young singers of the valley even after his demise.

Chani Bartal Rawem Ratsche, awaaz watchienoo.

Rozu Rozu Bozu Mein Zaar madnoo, Dade Chane chasya bemaar madnoo.

Afsoos Duniya, Keinsi naa log samsaar schethee.

Naseem Akhtar: One of the first female singers, a voice that has a touch of traditional folk blend with modernity.

Gulam Ahmed Sofi: A traditional Kashmiri folk singer, whose voice and art of folk singing was loved by everyone. His Shesrang is considered a master piece of the Kashmiri folk. Adaan Yekhna Cham ladan tei, Sar ho wandai Padan.

Rashid Hafiz: A folk singer of Kashmiri, known for his heavy voice. The traditional 'Chakr-te-Rauf'. His presence at the functions and weddings is most desired and looked forward to by men and women.

Yaa tuli khanjar te marey - nat sani shabah roze.

Shamima Dev (Azad): A leading female singer, who has sung some of the famous and all time favorite Kashmiri songs. Considered Lata Mangeshkar of the state, Shamima Azad has some of the finest collection of songs to her credit.

Roz Roz boz mein Zaar madnoo - Dad chane chasya bemaar madnoo.

Welai badlei panun Taqdeer- karaw roshan now Kashmir'

Kailash Mehra: Another leading singer of the valley who has sung some famous songs.

Dimyoo dillas wandyo walaas - perthaw gilaas kulnie tal.

Vijay Malla: A renowned male Kashmiri

ghazal singer, who has made remarkable contribution to the ghazal singing and folk as well.

Mein drav wichne hawas tam - mein school gubaar waloo

Singers like Gulam Nabi Shiekh, Ghulam Nabi Bulbul, Rehmat Ullah Khan, Abdul Rashid Faraash, Gulzaar Ahmed, Altaf Ahmed, Ajaz Rah, Kaisar Mirza, Waheed Jeelani, King Paul, Shazia Bashir and Zubaida Akhtar are some of the young generation singers of Kashmir are favourite of millions of Kashmiri people.

Bhajan Sopori: A renowned santoor player of the state, born in Sopore district of Kashmir valley, received Sangeet Natak Academy award in 2003 and Padma Shri award in 2004.

Music and Dance

Kashmir is famous for its Sufiana music, which provides peace to listener's mind. Sufi music came from Iran in 15th century and has established itself as the classical music of Kashmir. **Santoor** is the prominent musical instrument used in 'Sufiana musique'. **Sufiana Kalams** are always sung in chorus. According to Abu'l Fazal (Ain I a Akbari, 1873, Page 611) schools of music were founded in Kashmir by Irani and Turani musicians under the patronage of Sultan Zain ul Abidin. As a direct result of the influence of these schools, number of melodies were imported into Kashmiri music. Some of these are Rast, Chargah, Iraq, Nawa, Shah, Nawaz, Nauruzka, Yemen, Kalyan, Khamaj, Jhinjoti, Pahari, Bilaval, Husaini, Todi, Asaoari, Tilang, Udasi, Purbi, Sohni, Kangra and Dhanasri. Rast Kashmiri is attributed to Habba Khatoon. Hafiz Nagma is the part of sufiana music performed by a female dancer moving delicately to the musical tones. The local dance popular as 'Rauff' in Kashmir is most attractively done by womenfolk decked up in ornaments and embroidered

pherans, choreographed spontaneously at any occasion. The dance is performed simply by keeping arms on each other's shoulder and moving feet with the song. A similar yet lighter style of singing mostly performed at weddings and other marriage ceremonies is '**Wanwun**', the older ladies form groups 'doer' to sing joyful poems for blessing and honoring the bride, groom and the families. 'Haket' is a dance of celebrations, performed usually by two girls holding each other's hands in crisscross manner and swinging in swift successions while rest sing and clap for the best performance. 'Bache nagma' a boy dressed in feminine dress dances on the songs performed by the male groups, such performances are common in Kashmir during a wedding ceremony 'mehndi raat' or a doonga cruise and other informal events to create a hilarious mood for entertainment. The traditional folk dance from rural Kashmir is 'Band Pather', an act is performed by a group of artists to convey a message to the masses during the performance musical instruments like Shahnayee, Dol and flute are played to make the act more attractive. 'Ladishah' is one of traditional folk song performed by a single person who rhymes his sarcastic poems with a 'Chimtaa' a musical instrument.

Climate

The weather in Kashmir is like that of Europe, as it can rain any time in any season. It is always advisable to carry a handy rain proof/wind cheater jacket. Srinagar city usually is few degrees warmer than the high altitude destinations of the valley. Yet the overall climate in the entire valley is similar in every season. The variety of flowers in Spring and fruits in Summer will make your tour memorable. Autumn and Winter seasons are full of fun and chill. Autumn with dry, yellow and reddish leaves has a charm of its own and in Winter, be delighted to walk over the white blanket of snow.

Average Temperatures' in Srinagar City

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min	-7	-2	0	3	6	8	11	9	7	6	-3	-6
Max	16	23	26	29	30	34	36	35	30	27	23	22

(All above temperatures are approximate and in centigrade's)

Note: At rest of the prime tourist destination in Kashmir (Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Yousmarg) the temperature is slightly lower by few degrees than Srinagar during summer particularly in evenings and in winter the difference is little higher than normal. The rainfall at these places is very frequent and unprecedented which causes the fall in the temperatures. Carrying rainproofs during the tour to these places is advisable.

Advised Clothing

Season : Spring
Month : March to May
Clothing : Light Woolens & Rain Proof

Season : Summer
Month : June to August
Clothing : Cottons & Rain Proofs

Season : Autumn
Month : September to November
Clothing : Light woolens & Jackets

Season : Winter
Month : December to February
Clothing : Heavy woolens & Jackets
suitable for sub zero
Temperatures

Note : Visitors are advised to check the weather before few days of their arrival date into the valley and make the suitable packing of clothes especially for the children and senior citizens. The sports, shoes are most suitable for the visitors during the spring and summer.

Trekking Essentials

Outdoor sports offers thrill and challenges that high spirited men and women take pleasure in doing, to stay fit physically

and mentally. Over a weekend getting away from hustle bustle of modern cities, has proven to be significant in getting people, friends and families closer to each other and develop team work. Every trekker admits that one really does not learn during the first trek, first few treks are just experiences. People on their first treks are ill-equipped and ill-attired to tackle trails of mountains. Trekking is one of those outdoor hobbies that do not require an exquisite set of skills, endurance and training. The first soft trek makes one realize about his / her physical fitness and the essentials of trekking. Firstly you have to know where and with whom you are going, walking on with experienced trekkers makes easy for the lesser experienced one. Your leaders will probably know the area well and will have sufficient skills to get you to the destination and return safely and in time.

Moving out first time for a trek without any guide in unknown area (that is not so much advised), you will need orienteering skills, good maps and at least the advice of people who know the area. It is better to first try places you know better rather than taking on to harder and unknown areas. You should build your hiking skills, with manageable treks that you are familiar with. Trekking in teams is most appropriate as responsibilities are shared and inputs about the route are more. Guides and escorts can help you tackle harder and lesser hospitable trails by suggesting right route, right time and right people. When you are confident in your skills, you can then try the harder trails with your own efforts. Trekking and hiking is best enjoyed when the weather is most suitable, waiting for a right day makes your journey worthwhile.

Top 10 Essentials

1. Clothing ; What to wear during a trek is most essential, as it the body that has to be kept fit. Trekkers have various gear

depending on condition of the trek, duration and the season. As a rule you should wear light, weather resistant, rugged wear that would not trouble you while trekking. Your inners should soak away moisture from the skin, cotton is ideal during summers, while in winters it has to be woollens and wind proof. A cap would be good during sunny days and a warm hat would do well in extreme conditions.

2. Boot's ; A good pair of hiking boots is most important, a light one with a proper grip. Sports shoes suit most of the hard and soft treks while the leather hiking shoes are meant for the very hard treks and mountain climbs. Socks to be worn inside is equally important cotton in summers while woolen in summer, extra pair should always be carried along.

3. Backpack or Daypack ; Back pack is a life saving bag that everyone needs to carry on the back. A good quality rucksack of suitable size should be carried keeping in mind one's own capability to carry weights. Water bottles, wind cheaters/ rain proof jacket, eatable, extra clothes and other goods of use are put inside the bag. The rucksacks are available in different size and colours, small ones are best for the day trek.

4. Weather Gear ; Depending on the weather, you may need to take along extra gear. When it rains you may need light raincoats or head cover to keep the cold and the rain away from your body. Sunglasses save your eyes from sun exposure. Sun screen creams can save your skin from sun burns.

5. First Aid Kits; A fall, slip, or tumble often occur during trekking, you will need first aid kits to treat cuts, scrapes, and other injuries. Some ointment needs to be carried against allergic rashes that may occur due to exposure to dust, or walking over some plants, shrubs and trees.

Medicines for headaches, fever, vomiting and other minor illness.

6. Maps / compass; The map of the area with trekking route must be carried and understood properly. One must know the starting point, the destination and the time take for the same.

7. Headlights/ Torch ; For the early morning and night treks headlights make walk easier. The torch is important for the overnight treks .

8. Tent ; Tent is the most important for long treks, depending on size of group the tent size can be selected. A good waterproof tent makes it more comfortable during the rains. The weight of the size should be also considered as it has to be carried by one of the team members in absence of ponies and porters.

9. Food ; A trek is incomplete without suitable food and eatables , a yummy lunch after a long walk makes it worthwhile and a hot cup of tea/ coffee at the end of the trek is delighted by everyone. Chocolates, chewing gums, biscuits, menthols and juices are must to carry for a long day treks. A pen knife is a trekkers favorite, such knives have many shapes and size of blades with cutters and scissors.

10. Camera; A most essential gadget for a true traveler, catching the best scene in a digital camera and sharing with others is most cherished.

The scientific innovations has made many advance technology gadgets which are quite useful for trekkers and mountaineers, one of such gadget is Global Positioning System (GPS), a revolutionary tool that makes every adventurer's life easier , a handy gadgets can pinpoint your location within seconds. GPS is really nice to have during hiking

trips, it can prevent from getting lost in the woods.

Travel Experience of Sir Francis Young Husband in Kashmir:

"When I first visited Kashmir in the autumn of 1887 its glory had already begun to depart, though as regards simplicity of travelling my methods were of the simplest. I had no other clothes but what I stood in, and only the under portion of these were of European origin. All my outer clothes, including my boots, were worn out long before I reached Kashmir, and I was accordingly clothed in a long Central Asian robe and high native boots, for I was at the end of a journey of nearly four thousand miles from Peking. I had crossed--and was the first European to accomplish the feat--the Mustagh Pass, 19,000 feet high, into Baltistan; and the "Pass" being nothing else than a hard ice slope and a rocky precipice, down which I and my five servants and coolies had to let ourselves by means of turbans and waist-clothes tied together, I had been able to carry with me little even of the scanty baggage I had brought up to the other side of the Pass. I had indeed only a roll of bedding, which was thrown down the precipice, and a big kettle. I had no tent and no money! I had slept in the open from one side of the Himalayas to the other, and my funds were entirely exhausted, so that when I landed in Kashmir territory I had to borrow money from the Governor of Baltistan, Pandit Rada Kishen Kol, a very popular and respected official who is still in the Maharaja's service, and is now Chief Judge. Simplicity of travel was, then, at least possible twenty years ago, and I managed, after crossing the Pass, to get along with only one servant who cooked, performed every function of the numerous servants we employ in India,

and carried a load himself in emergency. But he was the most faithful, and my favourite of all the servants I have ever had. His name was Shukar Ali, and I must ask my reader's indulgence for a digression to describe him. I picked him up in Yarkand, in Chinese Turkestan, but he was a native of Ladak. He was the most cheery, happy-go-lucky, easy-going man, who ever proved a good servant in spite of his carelessness. Always laughing, always chaffing with the pony-men or coolies, always losing something vitally necessary, but always ready to do the hardest and most dangerous piece of work when the crucial moment arrived, he was the only Ladaki who dared to cross the Mustagh Pass with me, and but for one incident I would have a most grateful recollection of his services then. That incident I have often since reminded him of. After crossing the Pass we had to cross a very full and rapid stream flowing straight out of a glacier. Immense blocks of ice were breaking off the glacier and floating down the stream. The bottom was also partly ice and partly boulder. Shukar Ali, with his usual readiness, volunteered to carry me across this stream on his back. But in mid-stream he slipped. I was precipitated into the icy water, while Shukar Ali, in his frantic efforts to regain his own footing, unknowingly kept pressing me under water. We both eventually gained the opposite bank all right. But I had no change of clothes, and every stitch I had on was wringing wet with ice-cold water.

When, two years later, Government sent me to explore all the northern frontier of Kashmir from Ladak and the Karakoram Pass to the Pamirs and Hunza, I again sought out Shukar Ali; and yet a third time, when I was sent on a political mission to Chinese Turkestan and the Pamirs in 1890-91. On each of these occasions he rendered unflinching service, and once both he and I were nearly drowned in an avalanche. We had been hewing our way

up the steep slopes of an ice pass in a snowstorm, when suddenly out of the snow-clouds above us we heard a roar like thunder approaching nearer and nearer. We could not run if we would, for we were on an ice slope. We could only await our doom, for we knew it was an avalanche. But with a mighty rush it crashed past a few paces in front of us, and we were safe".

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 Kashmir India
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 Fax: +91-194-2482383
 Mobile: +91- 9419006566, 9596201482
 E-mail: skyflyingtravels@gmail.com /
 skyflyingtravels@rediffmail.com
 Key Persons: Ms. Ghazala Bhat, Bhat Nehnaaz

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 Mecca Tower, Room No 3, M.A. Link Road,
 Munawarabad, Srinagar 190001 (J&K).
 Tel : +91-194-2457451,
 Fax: +91- 194-2458549,
 M.: +91- 19419004104
 Email: silkroute721@yahoo.com
 Web: www.silkrouteholiday.org.
 Key Person: Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Pakhtoon

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 Mobile: 9906545485, 9906602233
 Email: stindia@yahoo.co.in,
 ravelasaffron@gmail.com,
 Web: www.indiatravelasaffron.com,
 Key Person: Mr. Sajad Ahmad Badyari.
 Mr. Maqsood Badyari.

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 Email: nfo@travelexcellence.net
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 info@kashmirhouseboats.net
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 www.travelexcellence.net.
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 E-mail: stareagletravels@yahoo.com
 Key Person: Mr. Hilal A. Ratta,
 Mr. Ali Mohd Ratta

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1st Floor, Room No 8A, Boulevard Shopping
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Mr. Mohd Lateef Badyari

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Key Person: Tariq Khan.

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greenwoodskmr@gmail.com/
mumtaz_wani@yahoo.co.in
Key Person: Mumtaz Ahmad Wani.

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destinationouthasia@rediffmail.com.
Key Person: Mushtaque Ahmad Ali Khan.

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Email: gulfamtour@yahoo.com.
Key Person: Anayath Hussain.

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Key Person: Mohammad Ibrahim Raina.

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Contact: 9906405254/9419072672
Email: rmholidays@gmail.com
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Key Person: Mohammad Ashraf Badyari.

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Email: hussain.irfan10@gmail.com /
irfan@alburqaqtours.com
Key Person: Irfan Hussain Wani.

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Email: kingsguru@saneharnet.in
pttindia786@gmail.com
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Email: o2adventuretravels@gmail.com
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Email: flyzonesrg@yahoo.com
Key Person: Mohammad Shafi Jan.

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www.myyatraonline.com
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Email: sahiba tour and travels@yahoo.com
Key Person: Feroz Khan

YORK INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS
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Email: yorkinternationaltravel@gmail.com
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Key Person: Mohammad Mubarik Mir

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Budshah Bridge, Srinagar
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SEAGULL TRAVELS
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Email: seagull_travels@rediffmail.com
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Email: support@akstravels.com
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Email: chand_travelkashmir@yahoo.com
Key Person: Irfan Ahmed Malik,
Manzoor A Laharwal

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Email: blueplanettravels@gmail.com
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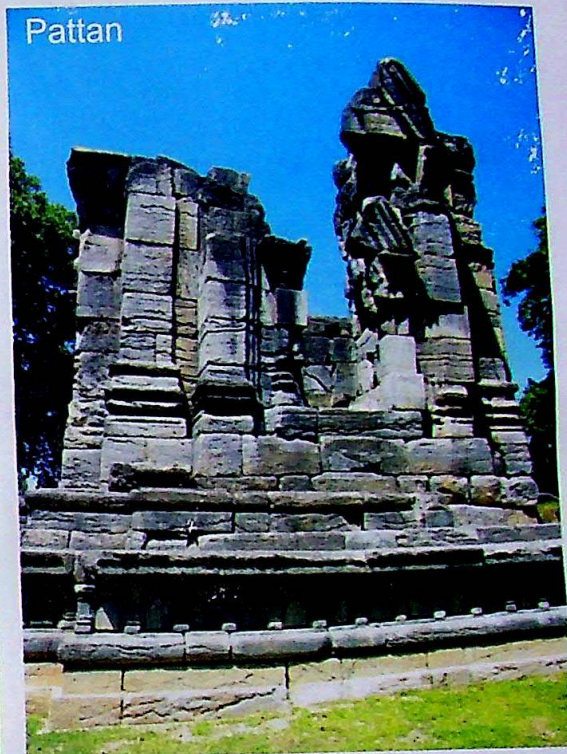
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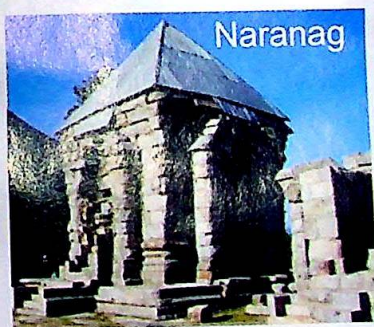
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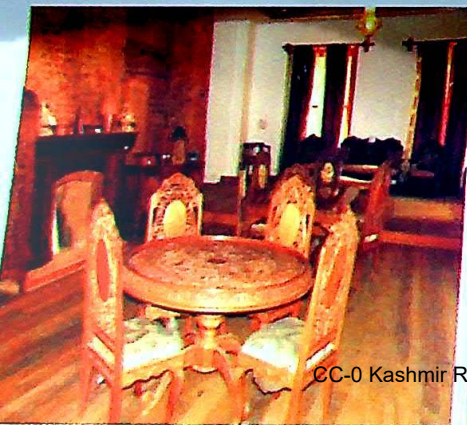
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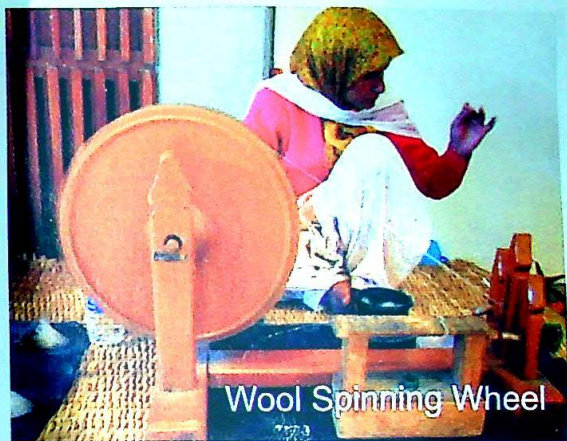


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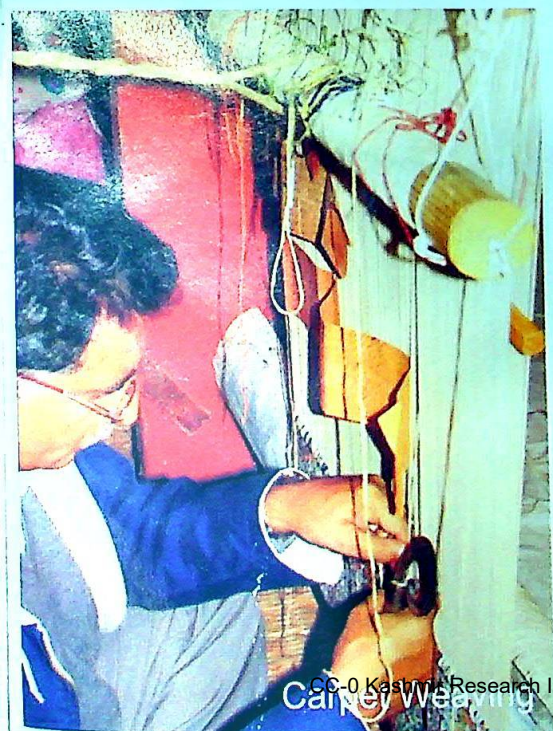
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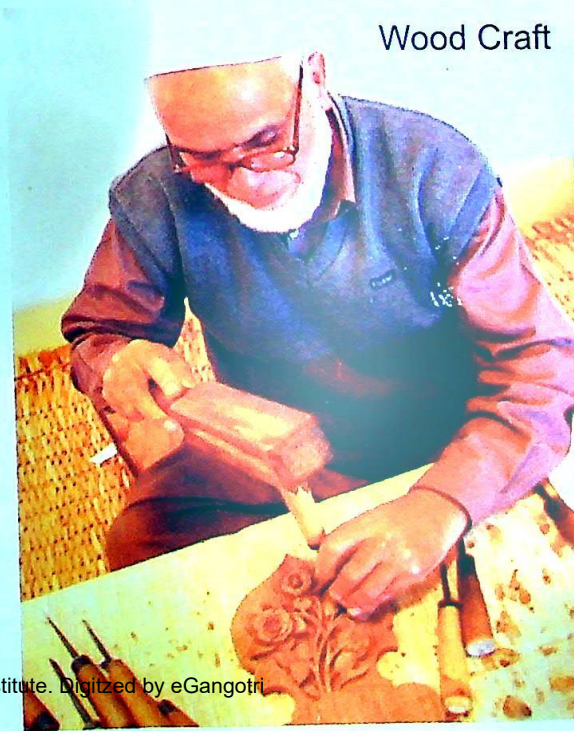
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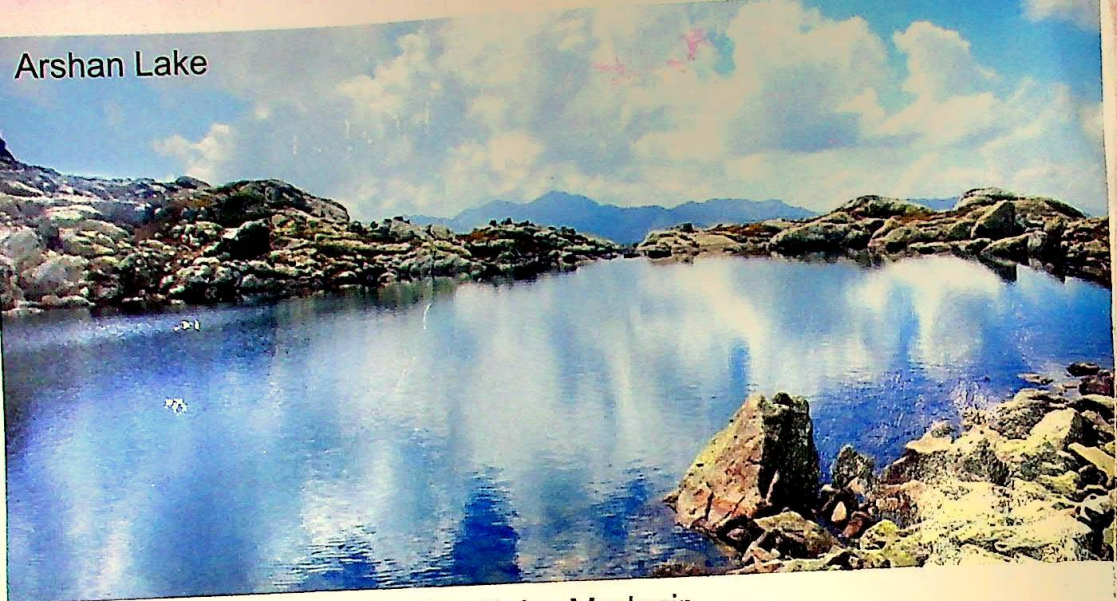
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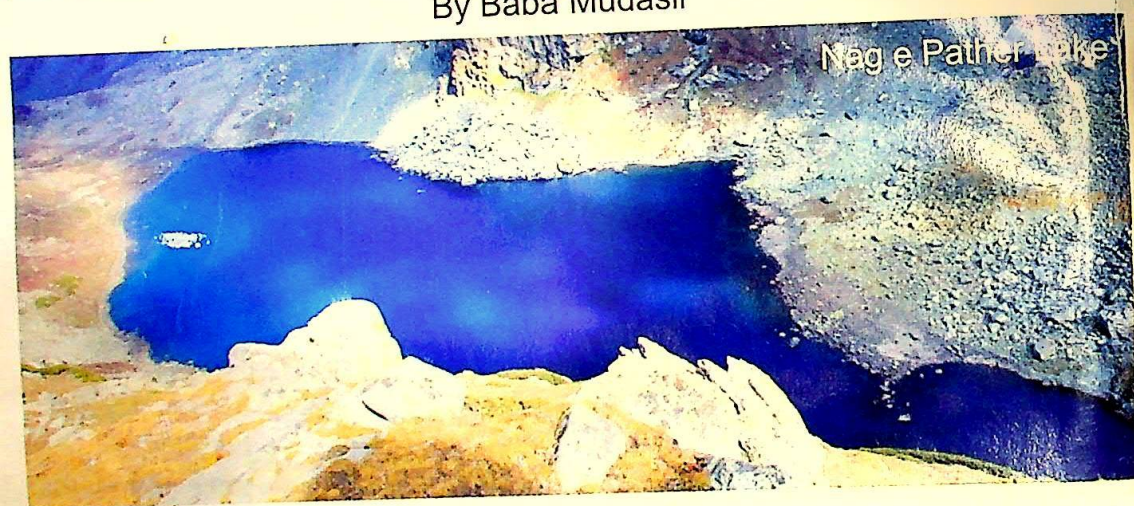
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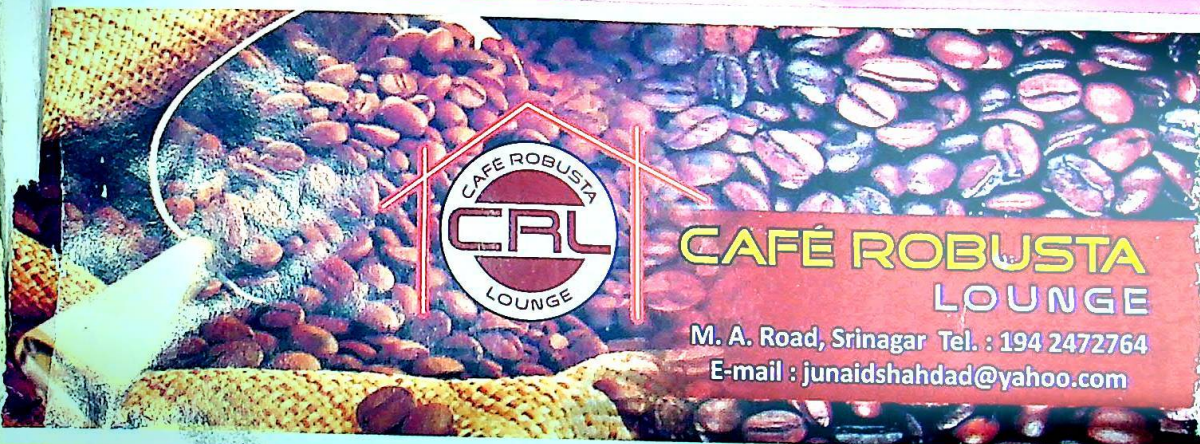
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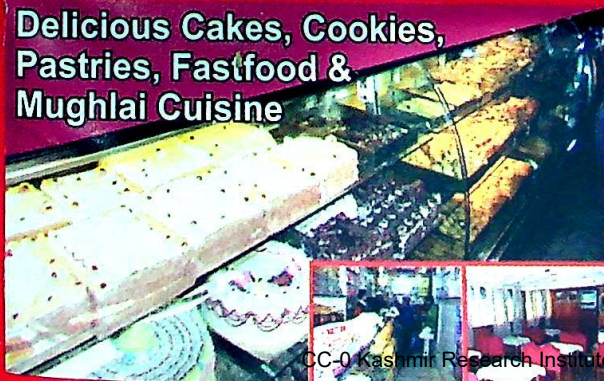


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Hotel Sahara, Kohankhan, Dalgate, Srinagar
Tel: 2474578, Cell: 9419010592
Email: ahameed47@rediffmail.com
Key Persons: A Hameed, Nasir ul Gani

HIMALAYAN HERITAGE TOUR & TRAVEL
Green House, Zero Bridge, Srinagar
Tel: 2478222 Cell: 9419002178
Email: himalayanheritage2003@yahoo.in
Key person: Feroze Khan, Shafaqat Khan.

ALKHUDDAM TOURS & TRAVELS
(CAR RENTALS)
Sangarmal Complex, 2nd Floor and Mecca
Towers, M A Link Road, Munawarabad, Srinagar.
Cell: 9419019090
Email: alkhuddamtravels@hotmail.com

More Travel Agents

SEA WORLD TRAVELS
Kohan khan, Dalgate, Srinagar,
Kashmir P O Box No. 804,
Tel: 2450625,
Cell: 9906701272, 9469670694
Seaworldtnt@yahoo.co.in

LUCKY FLOWER TOUR & TRAVEL
Cell: 9419079480,
Email: newluckyflower@gmail.com,
newluckyflower@yahoo.com

SAFINA TOURS & TRAVEL
Dar Complex, Near SICOP, Boulevard Road,
Srinagar, Kashmir,
Cell: 9419054545, 9018854545
Email: safinatourtravels@yahoo.com,
safinatourtravels786@yahoo.co.in

TRAVEL KASHMIR
Opp Hake Park, Boulevard Road, Srinagar,
Kashmir,
Cell: 9419054545, 9018854545.
Email: travel_kashmir@yahoo.com,
travelkashmir786@gmail.com

HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE TRAVEL
ASSOCIATES,
Goona Land, Dallake, Srinagar
Goona Travel Services, Srinagar, Kashmir,
Cell: 8803346643, 9906588525,
Email: goonatrave@hotmail.com

NEW KASHMIR CHINAR TOURS & TRAVELS,
Srinagar, Kashmir,
Tel: 2455444, Cell: 9419069404, 925069404
Email: shamasjaved@yahoo.com,
nkctours@gmail.com, www.nkctravels.com

NEW PLEASURE TOURS & TRAVELS,
Opp Nigeen Club, Hazratbal Road, Srinagar
Tel: 9419901904, 9858995919, 9596021443.
Email: newpleasuretourandtravels@yahoo.com.

MASHHAD TOURS & TRAVELS,
Baba Dharam Das Complex,
M . A Link Road, Srinagar
Tel: 2455524, 2483222, Fax: 2484388
Cell: 9419055584,
Email: info@mashhadtravels.com.
www.mashhadtravels.com

MANSHAH TRAVELS PVT LTD
Opp Air Cargo Complex, Sheervani Road,
Srinagar. Tel: 2455128, 2452889,
Fax: 2472392 Cell: 9419086526, 9419538324,
9796762255
Email: manshahtrv@yahoo.co.in

BLUE JAY TOUR & TRAVELS,
Khayam Road, Munwarabad, Srinagar
Cell: 9797029188, 9697445539
Email: muzamilseahar1318@yahoo.com

PARADISE & BEYOND TOURS & TRAVELS
Mumin Complex, opp Friends Colony,
Hyderpora, Srinagar Cell: 9796111679,
9419021679
Email: nfo@paradiseandbeyond.co.in

GOONA TRAVEL SERVICES, Srinagar,
Cell: 0880346643, 9906588525
E-mail: gunatravel@hotmail.com

NEW JK TOUR & TRAVELS
Dalgate Chowk, Srinagar
Tel: 2500278, 2500515 Cell: 9906724780,
9469055333.
Email: jktravel12007@rediffmail.com

DESTINATION INDIA TRAVEL CENTRE
Dalgate, Srinagar Tel: 2476579,
Cell: 9419539008, 9906472187
E-mail: farooq321@rediffmail.com,
showkatakaziz@yahoo.com

JUNAID TOUR & TRAVELS,
Abi Dalgate, Srinagar
Tel: 2457480, Cell: 9419019922,
-mail: info@junaidtravel.com

NIDA TOURS & TRAVELS
Dalgate, Srinagar
Tel: 2501684, Cell: 9419715293, 9906433141
E-mail: admin@nidatours.com,
www.nidatours.com

FALAK TOURS & TRAVELS,
Hari Singh High Street,
Golden Plaza shopping complex, Srinagar
Tel: 2472544, Cell: 9419001625, 9697001223
Email: falaktours@yahoo.co.in

ORIENTAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

18 Regal lane, Residency Road, Srinagar,
Cell: 9419580305.
Email: orientaltourism@gmail.com

TRAVEL ALLIANCE, CENTRAL MARKET,

Abiguzar lane, Chowk Te: 2458499
Cell: 9419902920
Email: travelalliance@rediffmail.com,
ishfaqkhankmr@gmail.com

PALACE TOURS & TRAVELS, Sonawar Bagh,

Opp Amarsingh Club. Cell: 9796546940
Tel: 2455832 Email: palacettravel786@yahoo.com

TRAVEL KASHMIR, Opp Hake Park,

Boulevard Road, Srinagar, Kashmir,
Cell: 9419054545, 9018854545
Email: travel_kashmir@yahoo.com,
travelkashmir786@gmail.com.

HAMDAN HOLIDAYS

1st Floor Sheikh Complex Shiraz Chowk Khanyar
Srinagar Tel: 0194-2471335
Cell: 09419406708, 09796777126
Email : info@hamdanholidays.com,
javeed11@gmail.com
www.hamdanholidays.com

DIVINE HOLIDAYS

Top Floor Baba Building Residency Road Srinagar
Tel : 0194-2489966 Fax: 2489966
Cell : 09419086840, 09622494949
E-mail : tourinfo@divineholidays.net,
car@kashmircarrental.in www.divineholidays.net,
www.kashmircarrental.in

TURKEY TOUR & TRAVELS

Main Road Ishber Gupta Gunga Nishat Srinagar
Tel : 0194-2461268
Cell : 09858736578, 09906521318, 09622749901
E-mail : info@turkeytourandtravels.com
www.turkeytourandtravels.com

KASHANI TOUR & TRAVELS

2nd Floor Mir Complex Near Alamdar Park Brien
Nishat Srinagar, Tel : 0194-2461056
Cell : 09906930964, 09469386564
Email : info@kashanitravels.com,
kashanitravels@gmail.com
www.kashanitravels.com

GO GLOBAL TRAVEL AGENCY

3rd Floor Shabana Complex Skuast Shalimar
Srinagar Tel : 0194-2461564, Cell: 09622750667
Email : gg_tours@yahoo.com,
atetourandtravel@yahoo.com
www.goglobaltravels.com

AROUND THE EARTH TOUR & TRAVEL

1st Floor Rather Building Chinar Chowk Shalimar
Srinagar Tel. 0194-2461699
Cell : 09906614555, 09018385685, 09797130222
Email : atetourandtravel@yahoo.com,

info@snowkashmirtours.com

gg_tours@yahoo.com

www.snowkashmirtours.com

www.aroundtheearthtours.com

TRAVEL EPITOME

Nai Sarik Barbar Shah Road Srinagar
Cell : 09906578073, 09419057235, 09796915549,
09622710287
Email : info@travelepitome.com
www.travelepitome.com

SHAHBAZ TOURS & TRAVELS

Nai Sarik Circular Road
Near Krala Khud Police Station Tel : 0194-2470312
Cell : 09596124490, 09796100457
E-mail: shahbaztours@gmail.com,
info@shahbaztours.com
www.shahbaztours.com

INDIA INCREDIBLE HOLIDAY TRAVELS

Green Enclave, 1st Floor,
Rajbagh Extension Srinagar Tel . 0194-2477155
Fax : 0194-2477153
Cell : 09906421989, 09419008979
E-mail : info@incredibleholidaytravels.com
www.incredibleholidaytravels.com

SAI TOUR & TRAVELS

Yatri Bawan Durga Nag Dalgate Srinagar
Cell : 09419137128, 09419131361, 09906359085
Email: satishsaitravls@gmail.com
www.saitravlesjammu.com

INDOKASH TOUR & TRAVELS

Bishember Nagar
Near Orthocraft Hospitl Srinagar
Cell : 09419001092, 09697979311
E-mail : indokash786@gmail.com
www.indokashtour&travels.com

HI SPEED TRAVELS,

Hazuri Bagh Opp Iqbal Park
Tel. 0194-2313853 Fax: 0194-2313355
Cell : 09796335500, 09906564945
E-mail : roms_333@yahoo.co.in

EUPHORIA TRAVELS

Boulevard Road, Gagribal Lane No. 3, Behind
Hotel Shah Abbas, Tel. 0194-2500792
Cell: 09906847303, 09906808017
E-mail: euphoriatravelskashmir@gmail.com
www.euphoriatravels.com

AL RAHAT TOUR & TRAVELS

Opposite Petrol Pump Rainawari Srinagar
Tel. : 0194-2421032 Cell : 09797249488
E-mail: alrahat.travel2@gmail.com

NEW PLEASURE TOUR & TRAVELS

Opp. Nigeen Club Hazratbal Road, Srinagar
Tel: 0194-2411904, 2411905
Cell : 09419901904, 09596021443
E-mail : newpleasure@ymail.com

KASHMIR FIZA TOUR & TRAVELS
 Konikhan, Near new Mamta Hotel, Dalgate,
 Srinagar. Tel: 2450414, Cell: 990609198,
 9796763505, 9469743700
 E-mail: kashmirfiza@gmail.com ,
 www.kasghmirfizatour.com

JUNAID TOURS & TRAVELS
 Mall Road Dalgate, Near Hotel Akbar, Srinagar
 Tel: 2501698 Cell: 9419019922 Email:
 junaidtravels@yahoo.com
 info@junaidtravels.com www.junaidtravels.com

NEW KASHMIR CHINAR TOUR & TRAVELS
 Cell: 9419069404, 925069404
 E-mail: nkctours@gmail.com www.nkctravels.com

M JAVED TOURS & JOBS CONSULTANCY
 Molvi Stop, Lalbazar, Opp JK Bank Srinagar.
 Cell: 9796172546 , 9419549339
 E-mail: javedjeelani@gmail.com, www.mjaved.com

SHRI RAJ TRAVELS & TOURS
 Boulevard, Opp Shikara Ghat No. 9,
 Tel: 2502122, Cell: 9797434434
 E-mail: amit@tripindiahotels.com

JAY JAY TOURS & TRAVELS
 Abiguzar , Srinagar, Tel: 2473417
 Cell: 9419015684, 9906676864
 E-mail: jayjay_travels@yahoo.co.in

WATER WAVES TOUR & TRAVELS
 3rd Floor Ansari Lane Rajbagh, Srinagar
 Cell: 9622709952

BLUE JAY TOUR & TRAVELS
 Khayam Rd, Munawarabad,
 Near Alhuda Public School , Srinagar
 Cell: 9797029188, 9697445539
 E-mail: muzamilsehar1318@yahoo.com

HARMONY TOURS & TRAVELS
 1st Lane Boulevard, Near Hotel Bawan , Srinagar
 Cell: 9796906640
 Email: harmonytoursntravel@gmail.com

THE GREAT HIMALAYAN TOURS & TRAVELS
 Gate No. 1, Near Hotel Akbar, Dalgate, Srinagar,
 Kashmir Tel: 2450627
 Cell: 9906811786, 9419500131
 E: greathimalayantoursandtravel@rediffmail.com
 www.greathimalayantravls.com

VENICE OF THE EAST TOUR & TRAVEL
 Tel: 2477489, Cell : 9419061430
 E-mail: veniceoftheeasttt@yahoo.co.in,
 www.veniceofeast.com

MARIAS KASHMIR HOLIDAYS TOUR & TRAVELS
 Saida Kadal Nigeen Road, Srinagar
 Cell: 9797977697 , 9469377002 Tel: 194 2429478
 Email: mariaskashmir@gmail.com,
 www.mariaskashmir.com

KONGPOSH HOLIDAYS TOUR & TRAVELS
 Shalimar Road, Habbak Crossing Srinagar,
 Cell: 9906898185, 9796185245, Tel: 194 2414685
 Email: kongposhtravels@gmail.com,
 www.kphtt.com

Suggested Itineraries

3 nights 4days

- Day-01 : Arrive Srinagar airport, evening for Shikara sightseeing.
- Day-02 : Srinagar local sightseeing of Mughal Gardens.
- Day-03 : Morning sightseeing to Gulmarg. after Gondola ride return to Srinagar or stay at Gulmarg.
- Day-04 : Leave for Airport.

4 nights 5 days

- Day-01: Arrive at Srinagar at morning, have local sightseeing, evening for Shikara .
- Day-02 : Visit Sonamarg ,evening to Srinagar.
- Day-03 : Lleave for Pahalgam stay overnight.
- Day-04 : Morning leave for Gulmarg stay overnight.
- Day-05 : Leave for Airport.

2 Nights 3 Days

- Day-01 : Arrive at Srinagar airport, transfer to Gulmarg for night stay.
- Day-02 : Morning leave for Srinagar have local sightseeing.
- Day-03 : Morning for shopping & leave for Airport.

6 Nights 7 Days

- Day-01 : Arrive at Srinagar airport.
- Day-02 : Transfer to Pahalgam for overnight stay
- Day-03 : Return to Srinagar, have Local sightseeing.
- Day-04 : Visit Sonamarg.
- Day-05 : Visit Yousmarg.
- Day-06 : Transfer to Gulmarg for overnight stay.
- Day-07 : Leave for Airport.

5 Nights 6 Days

- Day-01 : Jammu to Pahalgam, stay overnight.
- Day-02 : Afternoon transfer to Srinagar.
- Day-03 : Srinagar local sightseeing, Mughal Gardens.
- Day-04 : Visit Sonamarg, stay at Srinagar.
- Day-05 : Visit Gulmarg
- Day-06 : Leave for Jammu.

14 nights 15 days

- Day-01 : Arrive at Srinagar airport.
- Day-02 : Srinagar local sightseeing.
- Day-03 : Transfer to Sonamarg for night stay.
- Day-04 : Day for short treks to Thajiwas .
- Day-05 : Afternoon transfer to Srinagar, evening have shikara ride.
- Day-06 : Transfer to Pahalgam.
- Day-07 : Day for Pahalgam sightseeing

- Day-08 : Day for trekking to nearby spots.
- Day-09 : Morning transfer to Srinagar, evening Mughal Garden sightseeing.
- Day-10 : Transfer to Yousmarg for overnight stay in tents or huts.
- Day-11 : Day for leisure or trek to nearby spots.
- Day-12 : Transfer to Gulmarg for overnight stay.
- Day-13 : Day for sightseeing and Gandola ride. Evening transfer to Srinagar.
- Day-14 : Day for Leisure or trek to nearby spots in Zabarwan Range at Nishat Or Dhara, Harwan.
- Day-15 : Leave for Airport.

Important Contacts and Addresses (Kashmir)

J&K Tourism Department, Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar Tel. : 2452690. 2479548, 2452361

J&K Tourism Development Corp. Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar : 2457930, 2472644, 2457927 (telefax).

Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar : 2501201, 2501193.

J&K Cable Car Corporation , Zamzam Complex, Rambagh Crossing, Srinagar: 2436405.
Gondola Gulmarg : 01954 254500, 254503

Wild life Department, Gupkar crossing, Boulevard, Srinagar : 2141205, Dachigam: 2462327

Directorate of Fisheries, 77, Gogjibagh, Near J&K Bank Training School, Srinagar, Kashmir. Tele: + 91 194 2313378, 2312046
Fax: + 91 2313100
Email: kmrfisheries@yahoo.com

J&K State Road Transport Corp. near Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar : 2476758.
Sightseeing : 2455107 Delhi: 011-23865481.

Kashmir Govt. Arts Emporium,
Emporium Building, Residency Road,
Srinagar - 2471962, 2479825,
Shervani Road, Srinagar : 2471962

Branches - Boulevard, Lal Chowk Regional
Passport Office, Hotel Boulevard, Boulevard,
Srinagar

Royal Springs Golf Course, (Cheshma Shahi)
Boulevard Road, Srinagar - 190001.
Telephone: + 91 194 2501178, 2501179 Kashmir
Golf Club: + 0194-2476677

Directorate of Fisheries, 77, Gogjibagh,
Near J&K Bank Training School, Srinagar, Kashmir.
Tele: + 91 194 2313378, 2312046,
Fax: + 91 2313100

Civil Secretariate: Near Jehangir Chowk,
Srinagar - 2452283-84-85
Dy. Commissioner Srinagar- Near Jehangir Chowk,
Srinagar Tel. 2472580, 2452182
General Post Office, The Bund, Behind Polo
Ground, Srinagar.

Srinagar Municipality Corporation, Karan Nagar
Tel: Commissioner: 2470466 , HelpLine: 247465,
Health Officer: 2450620, 2476931

Airlines :

Indian Airlines, opp. Hotel Shahanshah, Boulevard,
Srinagar: City Off: 2452328, 2450247.
Airport: 2303334, 2431450.

Jet Airways - Polo view, Srinagar,
Kashmir : 2455221. Airport : 2303330, 2303336

Spice Jet : Airport: 2303305 / 06

Goair : 2303347/48, 2303333

Air Force
Air Traffic Control Room : 2305032

Railway Stations:

Srinagar - 2101752, Budgam- 01951 - 255164,
Anantnag- 01932-228243, Pampore-2101970,
Baramulla- 2102029 Awantipur-2101730
Bijbehara: 01932-9132181.

Other Organisations :

Kashmir Chambers of Commerce and Industries,
Residency Road : 2452517, 2452332.

Chamber of Commerce & Industries - Kashmir
Baba Dharam Das Road, Bishember Nagar,
Srinagar

Travel Agents Society of Kashmir (TASK),
Baba Dharam Das Road, Bishember Nagar,
Srinagar : 2459568 (Telefax).

J&K Hoteliers Club
Auqaf Building, Nawai Subh Complex, Zero Bridge,
Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir-190001
Mob.: +91-9796150782

Kashmir Hotels & Restaurant Owner's Federation
(KHAROF) Munwarabad,
Srinagar : 2482695, 2453732 (Fax)

Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Association
(KHARA), Nawa-e-Subh Complex,
Srinagar : 2453209, 2472249

Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association,
Opp. T RC, Srinagar, P.O Box 1392 :
Tel.: 2105098, 2450326
E-mail: hboassociation@lctorbiz.com,
Website: www.houseboatowners.org

J&K Tourism Alliance,
Room No. 19, Khidmat Trust Complex,
River View Annexe,
The Bund Residency Road, Srinagar-190001,
Tel. : 2457913, 2477186 Fax : 2452636
E-mail : jktourism.alliance@gmail.com

Travel Agents Association of Kashmir, CCIK
Building, Chamber Lane, Bishamber Nagar,
Srinagar Tel. : 2501490 Fax : 2501491
E-mail : taakkashmir@yahoo.com
Web. : www.kashmirtravelagents.com

Banks :

J&K Bank, Corporate Office
Srinagar: 2481930-935,

Foreign Exchange Branch,
Boulevard, Srinagar.
New Delhi (Connaught Place):
Tel. 011-23352098, 51627506

Zonal Office: 011-26261726-48
Mumbai Zonal office: 022-26846254,
Bandra: 022-26408451
Andheri East: 022-28360174,
Fort Mumbai: 022-66595971

Goa (Panaji) : 0832- 2491083
Ahmadabad (GG Road): 079-0832-6562553
Bangalore : OTC Road- 080-22425250
UP (Aligarh): 0571-2405632.

State Bank of India - Residency Road,
Srinagar.- 2452685, 2479209, 2455043

ICICI Bank: Residency Road,
Srinagar- 2481562

HDFC Bank, M.S Mall, Residency Road,
Srinagar.- 2483842, 2483845.

HDFC Bank ,
Nishat Branch, Khan Complex, Inner Brein Road.

Punjab National Bank - Opp. Parimahal Hotel,
Boulevard, Srinagar -24656012.

YES Bank, MS Mall, Residency road,
Srinagar- 2481111, 2483158

Axis Bank: Sara Complex,
Hari Sing High Street- 2484285, 2484287

Indian Overseas Bank (Western Union Money
Transfer), Ist Boulevard Lane, Dalgate, Srinagar.

Bank of Baroda, Sonwar, Srinagar. 2476623
Canara Bank, Residency Road, Srinagar

Hospitals :

SMHS Govt. Hospital - Karan Nagar,
Srinagar : 2401013, 2401351, 2452013.

Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical
Sciences - Soura, Srinagar : 2490137, 2493104

GB Panths Children's Hospital-Sonawar,
Srinagar : 2466113, 2466107

Bone & Joints Hospital - Barzulla,
Srinagar : 2430149, 2432135.

Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar : 2313714-16
Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Hospital, Rainawari,
Srinagar : 2507003, 2452025

Jhelum valley Medical College & Hospital:
Bemina, Srinagar - 2493104, 2490137.

Khyber Medical Institute,
Khayam : 2455130, 2484610

Kidney Hospital - Sonawar : 2501708, 2500919.

Modern Hospital - Rajbagh: 2477827.

Ramzana Hospital , Jawaharnagar: 2310045

Valley Artho Craft , Bishamber Nagar: 2479242

Kashmir Unani Hospital & Research Centre,
Natipora: 2453842, 2473966

Noora Hospital, Zainakout ,
HMT : 2497700 /7100

Some Taxi Stand :

Taxi Stands : TRC : 2452527, Boulevard
(Tangbagh) : 2500473 Dalgate : 2472146

Lalchowk : 2474849, Airport : 2434784.

Kashmir Motor Drivers Association:
Lalchowk-2472880, 2454281

Tourist Police : 2484627

Police Stations :

Police Control Room : 100
Nehru Park : 2451966, Hazratbal-2411910,
Kothibagh-2482646, Nishat-2461801,
Rajbagh-2312797,
Police Station Kupwara: 01955-252204
Police Staion Qazigund: 01931-235221
Police Station Airport : 2303326

Courier Service:

DHL Worlwide Express, Lambert Lane ,
Srinagar: 2475540.
Blue Dart Express, Red Crpss Road ,
Srinagar: 2473416
DTDC , Residency Road : 2473242
General Post Office , Residency Road ,
The Bund, Srinagar: 2483100
Other Courier service Kiosks near GPO.

Car Service & Sales :

Ansari Toyota , Parimpora Bypass: 2494646
Highland Automobiles,
Sonwar (Maruti) : 2500007, 2500096
Jamkash Vehicleads, Hyderpora,
Bypass :2441538, 2435575-76
K C Hyundai, Hyderpora Bypass: 2440977
Auto Wings Ford , Hyderpora Bypass: 2432690
Shuhul Automobile (Mahindra), Tengpora,
Bypass: 2136006
Himalayan Motors (Mahindra) , Tengpora,
Bypass: 2456006

JK House:

New Delhi Chanakyapuri -011-26112021-22,
Prithviraj Road- 011-24615471, 2461108
Mumbai-022-22180205, 22153481.
Passport Office: 2451193, 2451401
Consumer Affairs: 2472577, 2455019
Youth Hostel Srinagar: 2313960
Youth Services & Sports: 2310488

Flower Sellers:

BABUL ENTERPRISES, 40 Poloview, Srinagar
Cell: 9622499094, 9906484698
SHAH N SHAH, 41 Poloview, Srinagar
Tel: 2475425 Cell: 9419058205
G N SHAH, 41 Poloview , Srinagar
Tel: 2472814 Cell: 9906884590

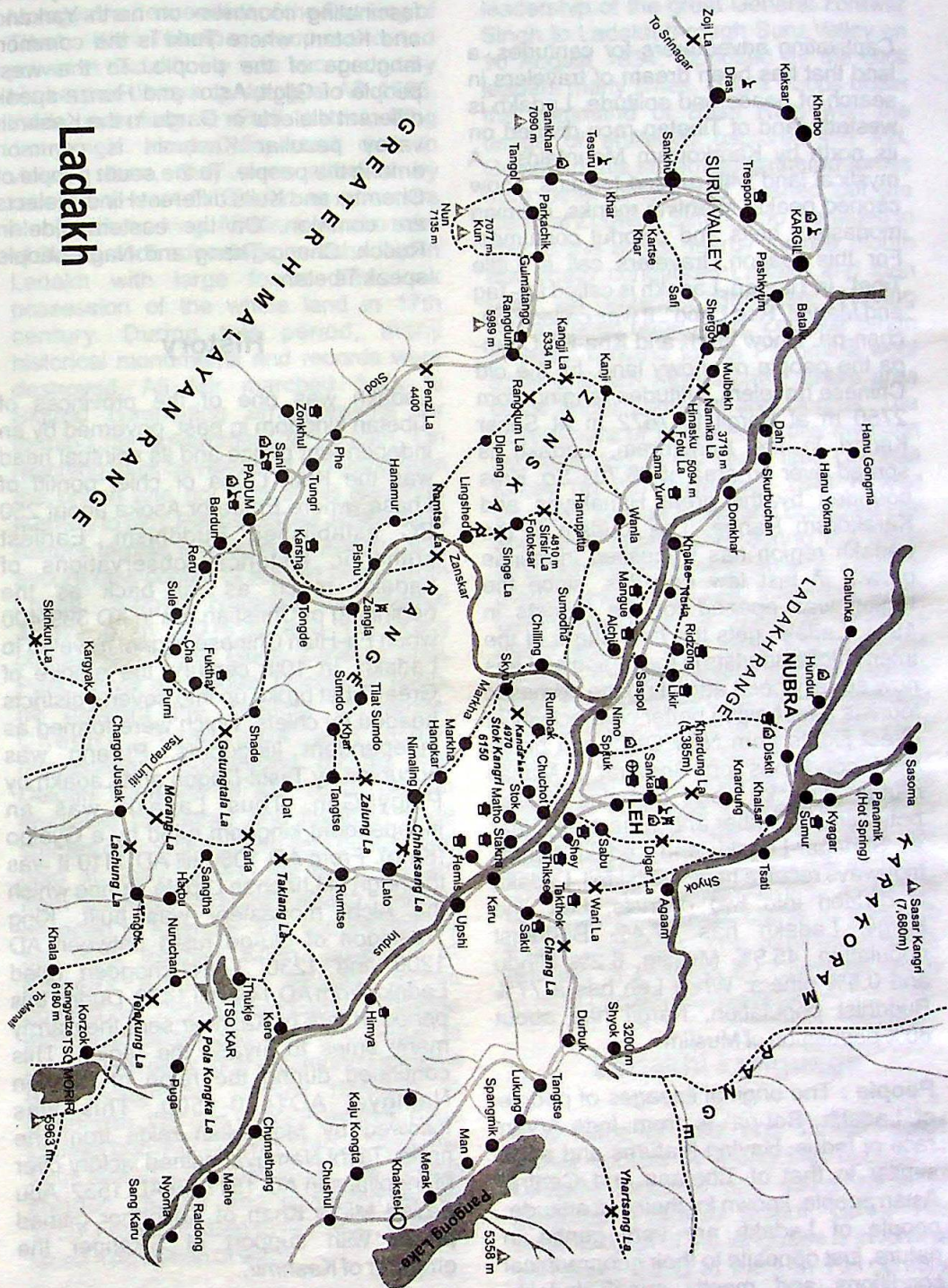
Universities:

Kashmir University Hazratbal, Srinagar:2420078,
2429870, www.kashmiruniversity.net
Islamic University of Science and Technology,
Awantipur; 01933- 247954, 247955,
www.islamicuniversity.edu.in
Sher e Kashmir University of Agriculture
Sciences and Technology: 2461258 , 2461259,
www.skuastkashmir.ac.in
Indira Gandhi National Open University : 2311251

Others :

Meteorological Department (Control Room) :
2430112, 2430115
Railway Control Room: 0194- 2101441
Traffic Control Room : 2455164
Passport Office , Boulevard : 2451193, 2451401
FM Big 92.7, Karan Nagar : 2488934
Kehwa Snow Cabs : 2443400, 2432343
Catholic Church , Residency Road; 2474959
BSNL, JTO Central, Cell One : 2310967
Youth Hostel , Wazir Bagh, Srinagar: 2313960
United Nations Organisation (Military Observer) ,
Sonawar: 2472758, 2452180

Ladakh



LADAKH

Captivating adventurers for centuries, a land that has been dream of travelers in search of peace and solitude. Ladakh is westerly land of Tibetan race divided on its north by Karakoram Mountains. A mystical land with rugged terrains, snow capped peaks, chanting monks, chiming monastery bells and colorful costumes. For this reason, travelers call it 'Little Tibet'. In Tibetan, Ladakh is called La-Tag and Maryul "Red Land". It was called Kha-chan-pa "Snow land" and Kha-Pa-Chan-pa the people of snowy land. by the old Chinese travelers. Altitudes ranging from 2750 m at Kargil to 7672 m at Sasar Kangri in the Karakoram, Ladakh is spread over an area of 96,701 Sq. Kms bounded by the great Himalayas and Karakoram Range. The tourism in the Ladakh region has witnessed immense growth in last few decades, since the region was opened for the tourists in 1974. Ladakh gets the best share of the international tourists in the region and has now equally been attracting the domestic tourists after having better connectivity of direct flights from New Delhi and better road conditions on Srinagar / Manali routes. Ladakh road remains closed between November and June every year as Srinagar-Ladakh and Ladakh-Manali highways receive heavy snowfall. Ladakh is divided into two districts, Leh and Kargil. Ladakh has 47.4% Buddhist population, 45.9% Muslim, 6.2% Hindu and 0.5% others. While Leh has a 77% Buddhist population, Kargil has about 80% population of Muslim.

People : The original lineages of people of Ladakh 'Bot-pa' is from Indo-Aryan race of Indus. Having features and attire similar to that of Tibetans and Central Asian people, known for their soft attitude, people of Ladakh are very gentle in nature, just opposite to their geographical conditions and mostly speak ladakhi

language. It is surrounded by the fascinating countries- on north Yarkand and Kotan, where Turki is the common language of the people. To the west people of Gilgit, Astor and Hunza speak different dialects or Dardu in the Kashmir valley peculiar Kashmiri is common among the people. To the south people of Chamba and Kullu different Hindi dialects are common. On the eastern side in Rudok, Chang-Thang and Nagri people speak Tibetan.

History

Ladakh was one of the provinces of Tibetan kingdom in past, governed by an independent prince and its spiritual head was the Kum Lama or chief pontiff of Lhasa, where Emperor Asoka about 250 BC established Buddhism. Earliest authentic historical observations of Ladakh reach as far back as the beginning of Christian era in AD 399-400 when Fa-Hian Chinese pilgrim traveled to Ladakh. In 10th century, the empire of Great Tibet broke up into several districts headed by chiefs, which were formed as independent kingdoms. Purang was occupied by Tashi-Degon and Ladakh by Palgyi-Gon. Thus Ladakh was an independent kingdom ruled by a Gyalpo (King). From AD 1080 till AD 1110 it was the reign of Lhachan Utpala, during which the Alchi monastery was built. King Trashigon of Gu-ge ruled between AD 1200 and 1230. Lotroi-chogden ruled Ladakh from AD 1440 till 1470. During this period, rulers of Kashmir sent their army many times to invade the region. This continued during the reign of Bhagen Namgyal AD 1470-1500. This was followed by Mongolian raids from the north. Tashi Namgyal gained victory over Mongolians in AD 1517. In AD 1532, Abu Sayed Mirza Khan of Kashghar gained power with support of Sikander the emperor of Kashmir.

From AD 1555 to AD 1580, Chevang Namgyal, a descendent of the first king of Tibet, Khri-Tsampo, reconsolidated power in Ladakh. He was succeeded by his brother Jamyang Namgyal AD 1595. While marching to Puril district, King Jamyang's troops dispersed due to violent storm, they were attacked by rebels and sent to Skardo as prisoners along with the king. Ali Mir, a Muslim ruler of Skardu took advantage, marched upon Ladakh with large forces and took possession of the whole land in 17th century. During this period, many historical monuments and records were destroyed. Ali Mir marched back to Skardu completing arrangements for forming his government in Ladakh. On reaching back he released Jamyang from the prison and got one of his daughter married to him. People asked Jamyang to restore temple & images of Buddha and secure new copies of sacred books from Lhasa. Singge Namgyal succeeded Jamyang in AD 1610 and heroically conquered Purang, Guge, Zaskar, Spiti, Puril, Mayal and Sidee. During his reign, he ordered the building of Hemis, Chemre, Temisgam and other monasteries. Succeeded by his son Deldan Namgyal in AD 1670. Deldan emulated his father and installed huge statues of Buddha plated with copper and gold at Shey. During his reign, Tartars from Baltistan invaded Ladakh. Deldan escaped to Kashmir and sought military aid from Ibrahim Khan, governor of Emperor Aurangzeb. Mughal forces pushed out Tartars from Ladakh. Deldan embraced Islam and built a mosque in Leh. Islam got a foothold during Deldan's rule though he himself reverted to Buddhism. His son Delek Namgyal ruled Ladakh from AD 1705 to 1740, conquered Spiti, Murad and other areas. Mir of Balti invaded Ladakh and conquered in AD 1750. From this date to AD 1834, Ladakh faced a repetition of wars.

Dogra Maharaja Gulab Singh after

conquering Kishtawar sent troops under leadership of the great General Zorawar Singh to Ladakh through Suru Valley on 16 August 1834. Opposed by the Balti leaders many times, Dogra troops under the command of Basti Ram with the usage of artillery captured the fort. Gyalpo in this stalemate gathered forces from other chiefs and pushed out the General Zorawar Singh, who managed to stay in the areas nearby for few months and finally conquered Ladakh and then later on invaded Baltistan. Having consolidated huge force, Zorawar Singh invaded Yarkand for its Pashmina wool trade and rich monasteries. Entire area came under Ladakhis and Dogras. The government of Lhasa took this invasion seriously and at the same time Chinese forces on 7th November 1841 moved towards Zorawar Singh and occupied Leh and other areas. Shot during the battle after fighting fearlessly, General Zorawar Singh breathed his last. Maharaja Gulab Singh overcame his favourite general's death after a long time and sent his forces. Chinese rule was just 6 weeks old when Dogra forces captured Ladakh and Baltistan once again. In 1846, Basti Ram was in control of the region. Dogras after systematic wars annexed Ladakh and Baltistan with their kingdom of Jammu and Kashmir and ruled for more than 100 years. The history of Ladakh and Baltistan up to 1947 remained the same till Maharaja Hari Singh chose to join with Indian Dominion. The partition of India resulted in invasion by China on some parts of Ladakh and Baltistan.

Ladakhi Language

Is a blend of Balti and Tibetan script widely spoken by Mongolian families in Ladakh, Baltistan and some areas of Himachal Pradesh (Lahol, Spiti). The original script of the language is in form of Devnagiri found in India in 7th century, which is also the alphabetical character of

Tibetan. The language spoken in different areas has a slight variation in the dialect. Language of Chang-pa people of Leh has some difference from Purig-pa people of Kargil and Zaskar, yet it's easily comprehensible among themselves.

Some Common Words & Phrases

La:	Pass
La-Tse:	Crest of pass
La-Tsa:	Foot of the pass.
Tso :	Lake
Gal:	ford
Gonpa:	Monestary
Sum-Gal:	Three ford
Gru-kha:	Ferry
Gru-ba:	Ferryman
Shing-zam:	wooden bridges
Do-zam:	stone bridge
Chag-zam:	Iron bridge
Gru-zam:	Boat bridge
Chug-zam:	Suspension bridge
River:	Tsang-po
Tourist:	Skoryangs pa
Road:	Gyalam
Place:	Rna-tsa
Name:	Ming
Friend:	Zago/ Togs-po
Boy:	Butsa
Girl:	Bomo
Kid:	Thugu
Bus:	Bus (same like English)
Shoes:	Pabu
Warm clothes:	Koslag Tonmo
Market:	Throms
Shop:	Thsong-khang
Hospital:	Sman-khang
House:	Khampa
Village:	Gam-yul
Town:	Gyal-tsa
Police station:	Tson-khang
Train:	Rail (as said in English & Hindi)
Monastery:	Gonpa
Ponney:	Teeu
Horse :	Sta
Guide:	Laam-stan
Book store:	Daib Thsong-khang
Service station (Vehicles):	Thul-khor Chosa/ Thusa
Restaurant:	Za-khang
Where are you from:	Nyerang Kane In.
How are you:	Nyerang
What is your Name :	Khamzang Ina.
What time is it:	Nyere Minang Chin
What do you want:	Chu-soot Tsam Song.
	Nyerang-Na
	Chi Gosat.

LAHDC: Ladakh is now a distinctive part of the state which is administrated by, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Which governs the administration in Leh and Kargil separately. LAHDC was constituted in 1995. The conception of the council was conceived so as to provide a transparent & speedy development in the area. It has 30 councilors. Out of 4 are nominated and rest are elected. The Chief Executive Councillor heads the council.

Getting There By Air

Indian Airlines operates regular scheduled flights to Leh from Srinagar, Jammu and New Delhi. Jet Airways operates daily flights from Delhi to Leh. Some low airline carriers also operate flights seasonally on this air route. Travelers get a panoramic view of snow-capped ranges and can see some famous pinnacles onboard. Tourists are advised to book a seat well in advance for this sector.

Srinagar to Leh By Road

The approach to Ladakh is from the Kashmir Valley through the 434-km Srinagar-Leh highway, which follows the historic trade route, earlier known as the 'Treaty Road'. It is open for traffic from early June to mid-November. J&K State Transport Corporation (SRTC) operates regular Deluxe and ordinary bus service from Srinagar to Leh and Kargil, charging Srinagar-Leh Rs.1300 for deluxe coach and Rs.737 for semi-deluxe coach. Private taxis (Cars and Jeep type vehicles) are available from many Taxi Stands in Srinagar particularly from TRC taxi stand. These light vehicle have made the two day journey possible in just one day in 14-16 hours subject to the conditions of the road.

Starting off early morning from Srinagar in a four wheel vehicle on sharing can be most economical for the individuals, families and couples. Travel agent organize such vehicles on full booking basis, Innova, Scorpio, qualis or Tavera are common ones that are available. Middle and the front seats are most comfortable for this 01 or 02 days journey. The condition of road and the driving skills of the young drivers can make journey of 435 km to Leh possible in 14 to 19 hours. Night halt at Kargil is advisable for people who get severe headaches/ backaches or travel sickness. First hour of journey is through the interior parts of the Srinagar city like Khanyar, Rainawari, Hazratbal or if the boulevard road is opted by the driver Dallake, off-shore road leads you to Ganderbal district (for both routes). The road then passes through the villages like Mamar, Kangan, Kolan and after 2.5 hrs., Sonmarg valley (86 km) freshens up with cold breeze of Sind river. If the vehicles reaches before the departure time of Army Convoy (which everyone should ensure), there is no halt for such vehicle driving towards the Zojila pass. Otherwise several hours will be lost in halting at Sonamarg or driving behind the convoy. The uphill drive to Zoji-la Pass at an altitude of 3505 m will thrill you in the first instance.

A rough steep zig-zag road leads to Gumri on top of the mountain, where after road passes through enchanting valley of Mini marg, a smooth journey of one hour calls for a tea break at Drass village, second coldest place in world. The drokpa clan of people of drass speak Shina language which is very close to the Gilgit valley in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Tiger hill in the valley is visible from the market. Mud brick houses of people are worth seeing. Driving through the beautiful terrains aside the Drass river and amidst the rocky mountains Kharbu a hamlet falls enroute. Heading towards Kargil town, the road plunges into the ridges of the Zaskar

Range. Kargil is usually a night stopover for the late arriving travelers. Crossing through Pashkyum area, the road passes through several villages before entering Mulbek which is the transition point from Muslim to Buddhist Ladakh. Namika-la (3,719 m) and Fotu-la (4,094 m) Passes follow the exit from Mulbek valley. The twisting road passes through the spectacular 'moonland' at Lamayuru, then down towards Khalatse, a descent of almost 1,219 m, in about 32 kms, which is again a stopover for tea or for relishing some fresh apricots. From here the road follows the Indus river and one crosses through the villages of Saspol and Nimmo, then at last Leh is visible, dominated by the bulk of its imposing 17th century palace.

Manali to Leh By Road

The alternative route to Ladakh is Manali to Leh (473 km), operational since 1989 and is open for traffic from mid-June to October. The road traverses many high passes, the first being Rohtang 3978m in Pir Panjal range. Then the road crosses through Taglang-la Pass, world's second highest motorable pass at an altitude of 5325 m. JKSRTC and HPSRTC operate deluxe and ordinary buses. Apart from that, many private mini coaches and taxis are available at Manali. The journey takes almost 19 hrs covered in two days with night stopover at Serchu (222 km from Manali), a favorite tea break stopover for travelers. The road follows Gya River to the Indus at Uphsi from where the plain area starts. Traveling through Thikse, Stakna and Shey, the road passes Tibetan village at Choglamsar and Dalai Lama's prayer ground and then finally leads into Leh.

Distances**Altitude****LEH****3505m**

Srinagar to Leh	434 km	
Other distances		
Sonamarg	84km	9000ft
Zogila	110	11578ft
Matayan	127	
Drass	147	11196ft
Kharbu	180	
Kargil	204	9000ft
Mulbekh	244	
Namikila	259	12220ft
Bodh Kharbu	274	
Fatula	295	13479ft
highest point on road		
Lamayuru	310	
Khalse	337	
Saspol	372	
Nimmo	390	
Leh	434	11500ft

Districts of Ladakh Region:**1. Leh 2. Kargil****Ladakh Tourist Arrivals**

Year	Home	Foreigner	Total
1974	27	500	527
1975	128	650	778
1985	6666	12245	18911
1995	5594	12391	17985
2000	6217	11825	18042
2005			23000
2010			76000
2011			180000
2012			215000
2013			137400

(The figures are approx.)

A historic town that served as the royal capital of the Old Kingdom, Leh boasts of a nine-storey palace built by King Singge Namgyal in 17 century. It is a miniature replica of Potala Palace in Lhasa. The ruins of Leh palace overlooks the entire city of Leh and the Indus valley and signifies Ladakhs rich heritage. Above the palace is the Namgyal Tsemo (Red temple), the ruins of Tsemo Gompa (victory palace) a part of the earliest royal residence built by King Tashi Namgyal in 16th century. The associated temples are kept locked except during the morning and evening hours, when monks from Sankar Gompa climb the hill to light the butter-lamps placed in front of the images. There are several attractive sightseeing and walkable spots within a 10-km radius of Leh. Sabu, is a charming village with a small gompa about 9 kms away from the town. The other sites to visit are the Jo-khang, a newly built Buddhist temple. Sankar Gompa (2km), is associated with spituk monastery that also serves as the residence of the head priest - Kushak Bakula.

Shanti Stupa: 4 km from Leh market, was built with the assistance of Japanese with the purpose to spread Buddhism. The sculptures of Buddha and other paintings on the walls of the round shaped temple attracts every visitor. Leh district consist of Leh town and about 112 inhabited villages. The total population of Leh district is 1.17 lacs. The historic mosque Jamia Masjid is situated in the heart of Leh town just below the Leh Palace. It was built in AD 1666-67 consequent to an agreement between the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and then ruler of Ladakh, Deldan Namgyal. In the same direction is Choglamsar, a centre for Tibetan Buddhism, culture and history. Word Chhog-lam-sar-Zampa means 'new

bridge on the high road'. There is a Tibetan refugee settlement camp, a handicrafts centre devoted largely to carpet weaving and the Dalai Lama's prayer-ground (Jiva-stal).

Behind the main bazaar, Chang Gali, popular among travelers, has interesting small shops selling curios and jewellery. Down the bazaar, are the Tibetan markets where one can bargain for pearls, turquoise, coral, lapis lazuli and many other kinds of semi-precious stones and clothes. One can visit Zangsti, old coppersmith quarter and the Moravian Church. At Changspa the massage parlors, open air restaurants and dance party clubs offer relaxation and entertainment to the exhausted trekkers and fun lovers. Ladakh Ecological Centre at Karzoo above Changspa has a Craft shop, an exhibition hall, a library and evening programs of documentary films for the tourists. The Fort Road follows to Skara, another pretty and prosperous suburb of Leh town, and one can admire the earthen ramparts of Zorawar Singh's fort, now housing army barracks. A variety of Indian, Western, Chinese and Tibetan cuisine is available around Leh market at many

Monasteries

(All distances are in Km and from Leh bazaar)

Most captivating feature of Ladakh is the Buddhist Monasteries (Gompas), situated on high points over cliff sides, ridges and sprawled in every vicinity signifying faith and holiness.

Hemis : (40 Km) Hemis monastery, the wealthiest and biggest gumpa of Ladakh, founded by Stagtsang a Tibetan monk in AD 1630 during the reign of Sengge Namgyal, flourished under the Namgyal dynasty. Annual festival is held in summer

(June or early July) commemorating Padma Sambhav's birth anniversary. Mask dances ((Tscham Dance) are held in the courtyard of the monastery. The festival celebrates the victory of Buddhism over the Born-creed and to commemorate the birthday of Padmasambhava. Once in 12 years, Tangkha (scroll painting on silk or brocade) the largest in Ladakh, is ritually exhibited.

Alchi : (69 Km) Situated on banks of the Indus, near Sasput and Alchi village, Alchi monastery is looked after by monks from the Likir monastery. It is a religious enclave built a thousand years ago. It has a display of rare Kashmiri and Tibetan style woodcarving, frescos and stucco art.

Spituk : (8 Km) standing atop a hillock, Spituk monastery commands a panoramic view of the Indus Valley. Many icons of Buddha and five Tangkhas are found in this 15th century monastery. There is also a collection of ancient masks, antique arms and an awe inspiring image of Mahakalal. Spituk festival is held during winter between November and March.

Phyang : (17 Km) situated on the Leh-Kargil road, Phyang monastery was built by Tashi Namgyal in the latter half of 16th century A.D. The gumpa belongs to order of Drung Kagyupa the Red Hat sect of the Buddhists. Hundreds of icons of Buddha are kept on wooden shelves. Phyang annual festival is held in late July or early August.

Shey : 15 Kms from Leh, Shey, built by Singge Namgyal in 17th century, erected on the ruins of the old castle. Palace is believed to have been the seat of power of the pre-Tibetan kings. A 7.5 m high copper statue of Buddha, plated with gold, is installed in the palace. Shey is also the first capital of Ladakh.

Thikse : (19km) Thikse monastery offers a spectacular view , situated on the Leh-Karu road. Founded by Palden-Chang Sem-Cherab in 15th century, it is one of the largest and architecturally most impressive gumpa that has extraordinary images, stupas and wall paintings of Buddha. It houses an important collection of Tibetan books in its library.

Matho : (22km) situated half way between Stok and Stakna the monastery belongs to Sakyapa Sect. Matho was built in 16th century, has a collection of old Tangkhas. Its annual festival of oracles is held in March .

Stok : (17km) Beyond Choglamsar is the Stok monastery built in 18th century at a height of 3600m in the stok valley. It is the palace of last king of Ladakh, Kunsang Namgyal who died in 1974. It has a museum which has a unique collection of ornaments from the royal family and exquisite Tangkhas. Stok is also residence of the present royal family.

Likir: (60 km) Likir Gumpa, lies in the vast valley between Saspul and Bazgo. Some smaller monasteries in ladakh and Zaskar belong to Likir. Founded in 12th century and reformed under Tsongkhapa in 15th century.

Sabu: 7km east of Leh in the village of Sabu , lies the Sabu monastery (Tashi Gephel Gumpa). The Gelugpu monestary is looked after by Spituk. The monasteries are based on the belief of four guardians of the world. Dhritrashtra (east), Virudhaka (south), Virupaksha (west) and Vaisravana (west) watching the entrance gate of Dukhang.

Sankar: 3km to the north of Leh in a village near Khardungla road, Sankra Gumpa belongs to Gelugpa order founded by Skushog Bakula as a branch of Spituk.

Stakna: (35km) On the road to Hemis and Stok, Stakna monestary is visible from far distance situated on a hill on the left bank of the river Indus, founded in 16th century by Sengge Namgyal.

Tsemo Gumpa: Situated atop a rocky hill above the Leh palace, the Red Gumpa (Tsemo Gumpa) was built by King Grags-Pa-Bum Lde in 1430.

Chimre: Situated in Chimre village around 40 km from Leh on the way to Karu, on a steep rock, Chimre monastery belongs to Draukpa Kagyupa, it was founded by Stagtsang Raspa, the spiritual teacher of Singge Namgyal.

Bazgo: (60km) On the right bank of Indus on the road between Sapur and Nimo, the village of Bazgo is situated, here the ruins of castle, temple of Maitrey and Serzang dedicated to Buddha are preserved. The Maitrey monastery was built by Tsewang Namgyal whereas the Serzang was built by Sengge Namgyal.

Note: Nominal entrance fee at the monasteries is used for the upkeep and restoration. Visitors are advised to follow some norms:

- Dress respectfully; do not wear short skirts or sleeveless shirts.
- Always take off shoes before entering shrines.
- Do not spit , smoke or take alchohol at the shrines.
- Do not touch the statues, books, thankas and other objects.
- Do not disturb the monks during the prayers.
- Festival dances are rituals not folk dances.

Where to Eat

All hotels and most of the guest houses have in-house restaurants where all type of continental, Indian, Ladakhi and Tibetan food is provided. The restaurants

and cafes in the main market around Palace on Zangsti, Changspa and old fort road provide most delicious food of different cuisines (Continental, Chinese, Ladakhi, Indian, Mughlai) for international and domestic tourists as per their choice.

Some Restaurant & Cafes

LAMAYURU RESTAURANT

Fort Road, Near Yaktail hotel,
Leh Ladakh

Cell: 9419887890, 9906991299

DREAMLAND RESTAURANT

Fort Road, Leh Ladakh

Cell: 9906991123

HAPPY WORLD RESTAURANT

Fort Road, Leh Ladakh

Cell: 9419658569, 9622956105

BON APPÉTIT RESTAURANT &

FRENCH BAKERY, Raku Complex, Fort Road, Leh Ladakh
Cell: 9622994646

HIGHLIFE TIBETAN RESTAURANT

Lakruh Complex, Fort Road,
Leh Ladakh

Cell: 9419178060, 9906984444

SUMMER HARVEST

(Tibetan Restaurant) Fort Road,
Near JK Bank, Leh Ladakh

Cell: 9906986556

LEH CHEN RESTAURANT & BAR

Bharat Complex, Fort Road, Leh Ladakh
Cell: 8803932789

Where to Stay

Accommodation in and around Leh is available with different category hotels which have the Tariff ranging from 1500 to Rs.5000 as per the category which includes the meals mostly. Some luxury hotels have tariff upto Rs. 10000 per room. Guest Houses in Leh are well

maintained by the local people available at quite economical rates, the tariff ranges from Rs.600 to 1500. Most of the hotels and guest houses are in the main market area and fort road. While many more properties are available in the outer skirts of the city.

Some Hotels in LEH

BIJOO Malpak, Leh Tel: 252131

CARAVAN CENTRE Skara, Leh
Tel: 252282

DRAGON Old Road, Leh
Tel: 252139, 252720

DEWACHAN Agling, Leh
Tel: 253177, 253178

GALDAN CONTINENTAL
Opp. Veg. Market, Leh Tel: 252173

GALICER VIEW, Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252790

HIGHLAND Stok

HOLIDAY LADAKH
Fort Road, Leh Tel: 250403, 251444

HORZEY Old Road, Leh Tel: 252580

HORIZON Leh Tel: 252602

KANGLACHAN Opp. Police Station, Leh
Tel: 252144, 252051

KHANGRI Near Veg. Market, Leh
Tel: 252762, 252051

K-SAR Fort Road, Leh
Tel: 252348, 252735

LASERMO Old Road, Leh Tel: 252313

LINGZI New Veg. Market, Leh
Tel: 252020, 252379

LHARIMO Fort Road, Leh
Tel: 252144, 252051

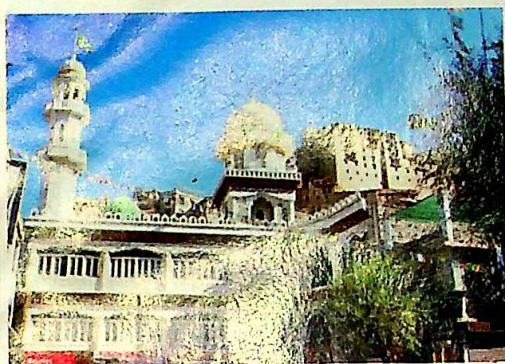
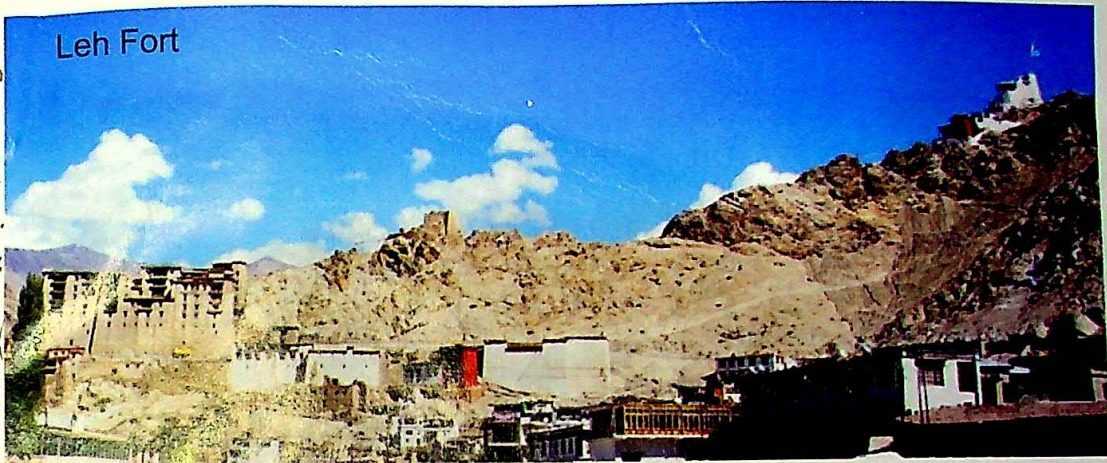
LUMBINI Fort Road, Leh
Tel: 252182, 252528

LOTUS Upper Karzoo, Leh Tel: 250265

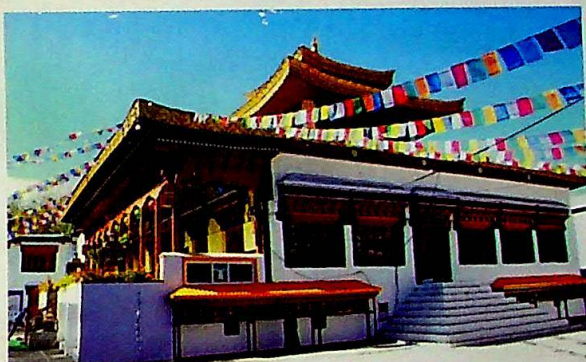
LADAKH RESIDENCY
Changspa, Leh Tel: 254111, 254222

MANDALA Fort Road, Leh Tel: 252943	THE GRAND DRAGON Old Road, Leh Tel: 257786, 255866
MOGOL Changspa, Leh Tel: 253438 NIRVANA PALACE Tukcha, Leh Tel: 252834, 252248	LADAKH SARAI Ayu, Saboo
OMASILA Changspa, Leh Tel: 252119	POPLAR ECO RESORT Sheynam, Leh Tel: 253518, 252953
HOTEL RAFICA Fort Road, Leh, Tel: 252258, 252258 Cell: 9419178036	GRAND WILLOW Fort Road, Leh Tel: 251835
RI-RAB Changspa, Leh Tel: 253108	GYPSY PANORAMA Yurtung, Leh
ROYAL LADAKH Upper Karzook, Samkar, Leh Tel: 251646, 250576	MANSAROVAR Fort Road, Leh Tel: 256234, 252760
ROYAL PALACE Old Road, Leh Tel: 252276	MANTRA COTTAGE Yurtung, Leh
SHAMBHALA Skara, Leh Tel: 252067	KAAL Skara, Leh Tel: 251333
SINGGE PALACE Old Road, Leh Tel: 253344	HILL TOWN Upper Tukcha, Leh Tel: 250576, 251646
SPIC-N-SPAN Old Road, Leh Tel: 252765, 251225	AUSPICIOUS Chulung, Leh Tel: 253687
SKITSAL Stok Tel: 242049, 242051	BIMALA Leh Tel: 252754
SHENAM Old Road, Leh, Tel: 252345	CHOSPA Old Road, Leh Tel: 252045
SUN-N-SAND Changspa, Leh Tel: 252468	CHUBI Leh Tel: 253456
SIACHEN Old Bus Stand, Leh Tel: 252586	CHONJOR Chulung, Leh Tel: 253164
SILK ROUTE INN Skara, Leh Tel: 252090	CHOSKOR Chulung, Leh Tel: 252173
TSOMORIRI Fort Road, Leh Tel: 252271, 253611	DISKIT CHAN Debi Chowk, Leh Tel: 252487, 251523
THONGSAL Yurtung, Leh Tel: 252227	KHAYUL Old Road, Leh Tel: 252321
YAK TAIL Fort Road, Leh Tel: 252118, 252735	HERMIT HUT Upper Sheynam, Leh Tel: 252707
MAHABODHI ECO RESORT Devachan, Choglamsar Tel: 264372, 264905	LUNG-SE-JUNG Tukcha Road, Leh Tel: 252193
GAWALING INTERNATIONAL Upper Tukcha, Leh Tel: 253252	PADMALING Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252933
CHO PALACE Skara, Leh Tel: 252743	PANGONG Sheynam, Leh Tel: 252300
NAMGYAL PALACE Fort Road, Leh Tel: 256356	SHENAM Sheynam, Leh
SHANGRI LA Old Roads, Leh Tel: 256050	SHANTI PALACE Old Road, Leh
CITY PALACE Lower Tukcha, Leh	TSOKAR Fort Road, Leh Tel: 253072
NOBLE HOUSE Skara, Leh Tel: 255679	YASMIN Leh Tel: 252405, 252631
THE DRUK LADAKH Yurtung, Leh Tel: 251702, 251724	SNOW LION Samkar, Leh Cell: 9469049090
LHARISA Shkara, Leh Tel: 252000	SNOW VIEW Changspa, Leh Tel: 252504
	TAKSKI Katpa, Leh Tel: 252130
	ROCK LAND Leh Tel: 252589
	ZANGSTI Leh Tel: 252650

Leh Fort



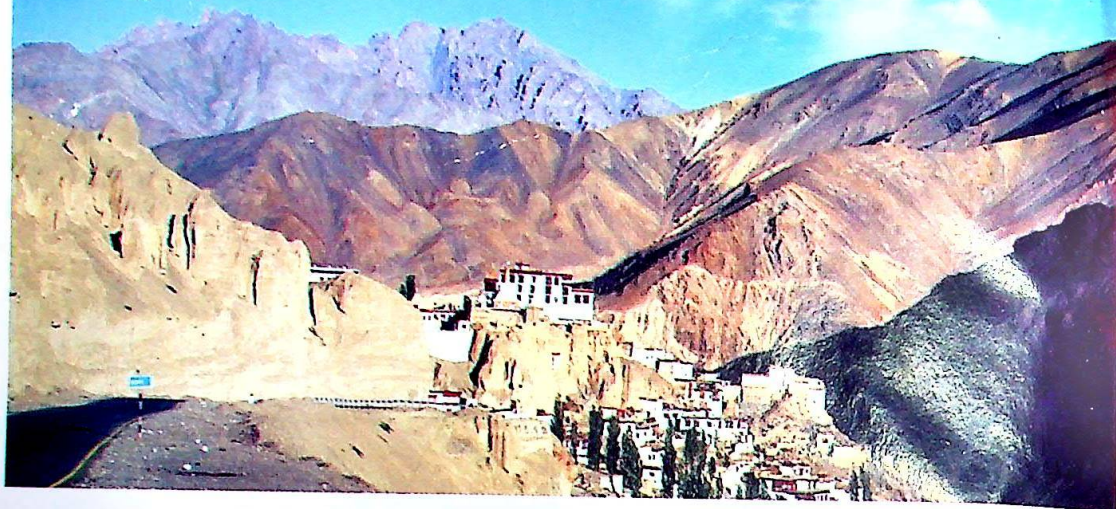
Leh Mosque



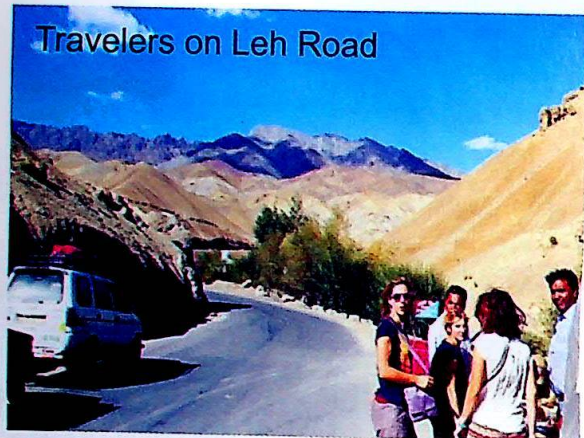
Monastery



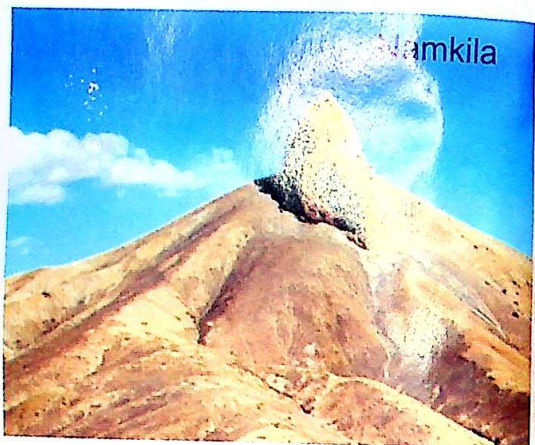
Lamayuru



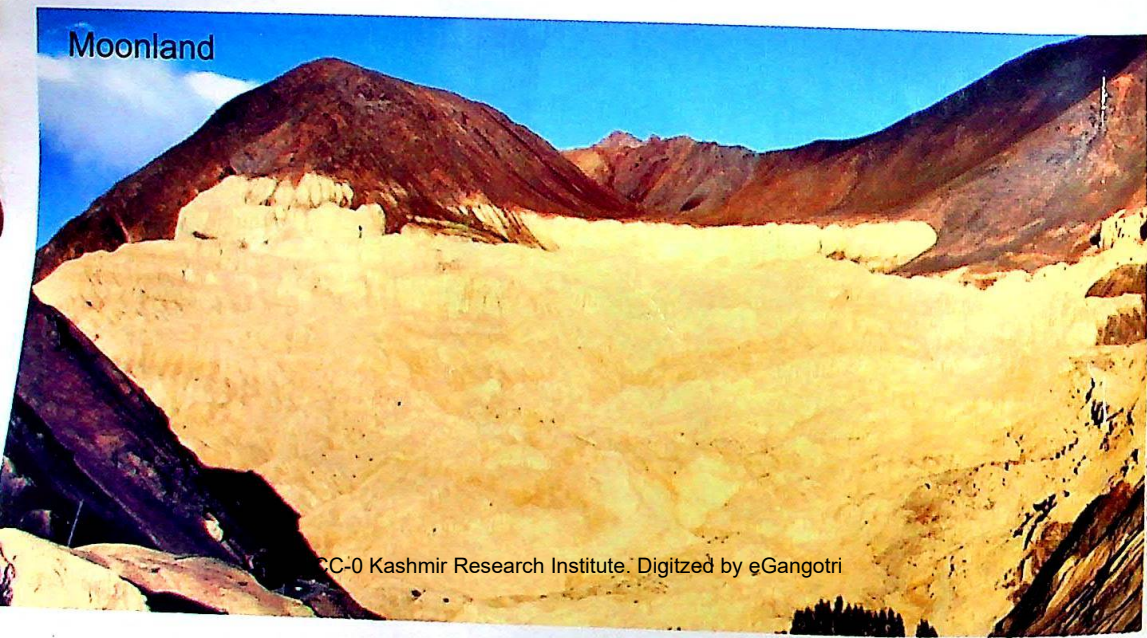
Travelers on Leh Road



Mamkila



Moonland



Hotel

De Oasis Villa

Leh - Ladakh



Luxury in Cozy Environs with Personlised Service



Offers Superb View of Leh Fort from the Rooms

For Reservation Please Contact :

HOTEL DE OASIS VILLA

Karzoo Leh-ladakh, 194101, J&K, India.

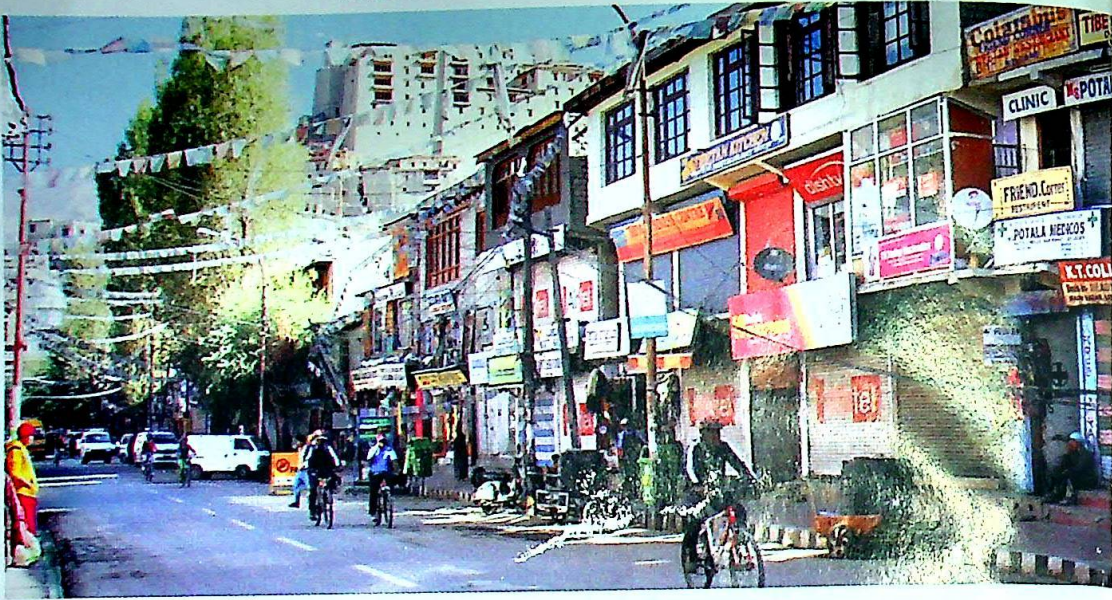
Tel. : +91-1982-251501 Mob. : +91-8803968687

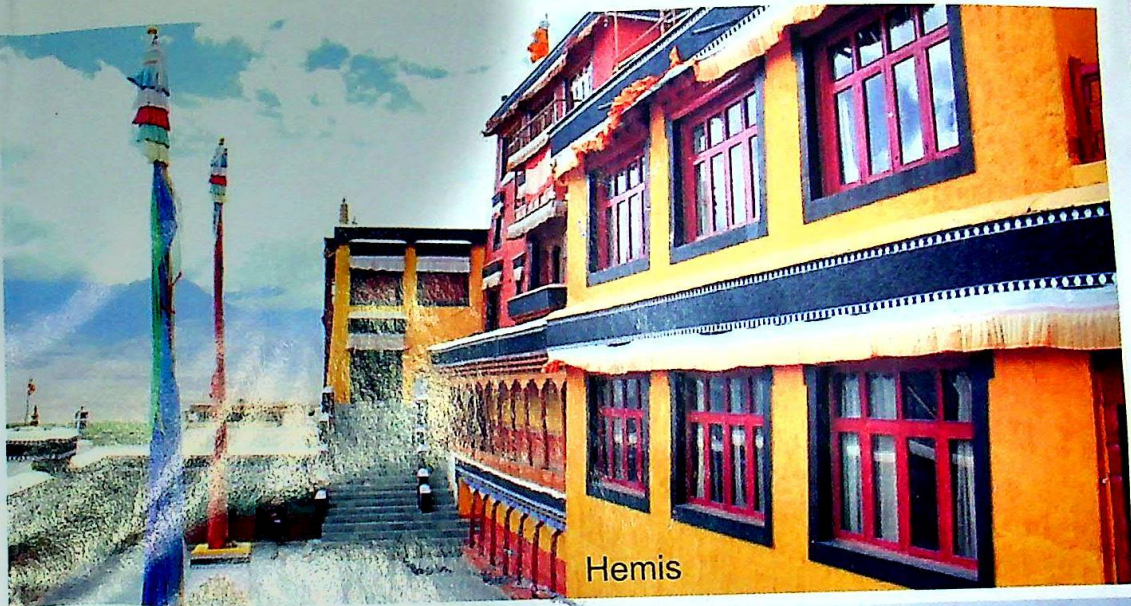
E-mail : angchoktebi@rediffmail.com

Website : www.deoasisvillaleh.com

CC-0 Kashmir Research Institute, Digitized by eGangotri

Some Scenes of Leh Market





Hemis



Maitreya Buddha



Thikse

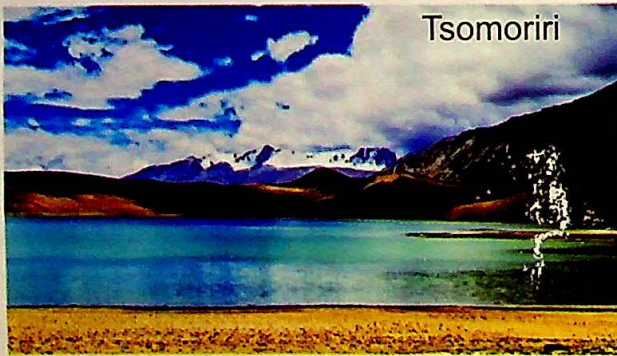


Shey

Pangong



Tsomoriri



Tibetan Home Stay



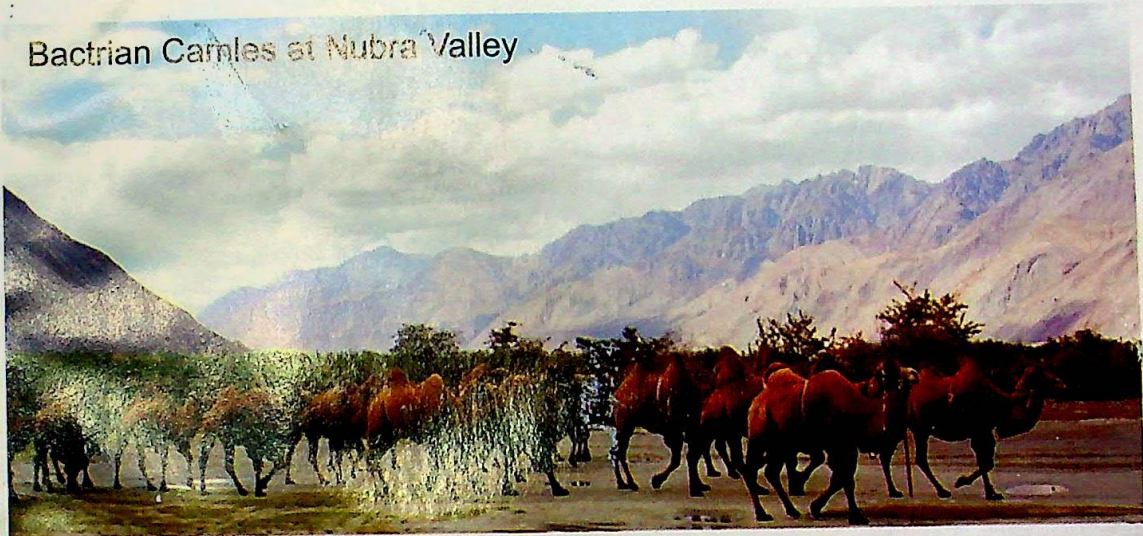
Local service at Pangong



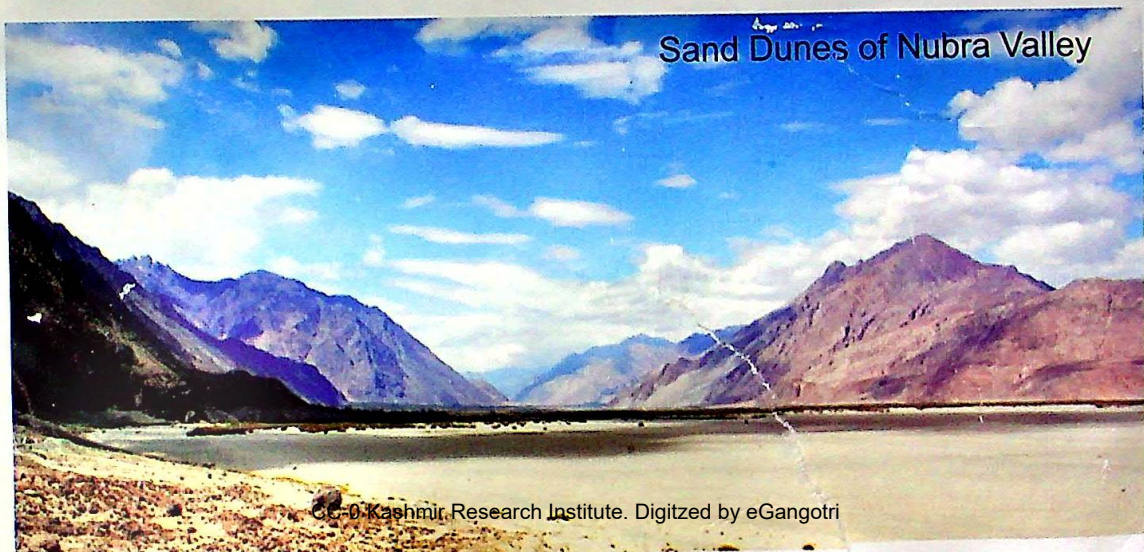
Khardung La



Bactrian Camels at Nubra Valley

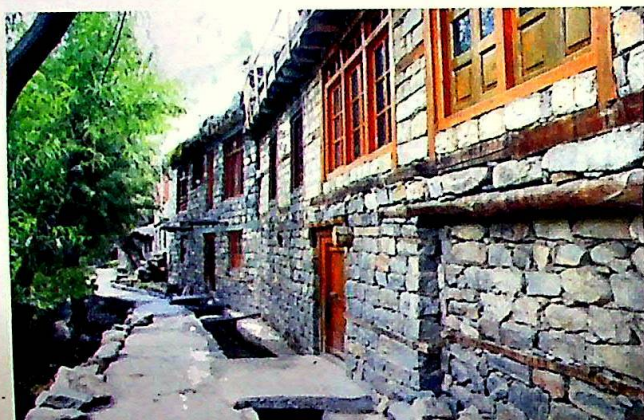


Sand Dunes of Nubra Valley





Turtuk Valley



Stone Houses at Turtuk

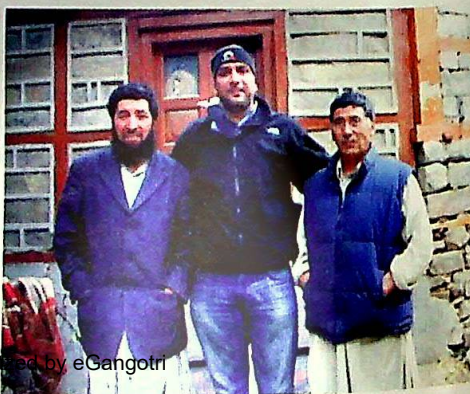


Kids at Bogdang

Youth Library at Turtuk



With Locals in Turtuk



TAKSKI Katpa, Leh Tel: 252130

ABU PALACE Chulung, Leh Tel. : 252341

DREAM LAND Fort Road, Leh Tel. : 252089

HILL VIEW Old Road, Leh Tel. : 252058

KANGLA Chulung, Leh Tel. : 252506

LINGS SNOG Sheynam, Leh Tel. : 252749

NORBULING Skara, Leh Tel. : 252154

NARO Changspa, Leh Tel. : 252481

SIDDHARTH Fort Road, leh Tel. : 252329

T-SURU Fort Road, Leh Tel. : 252728, 252735

ZARIA Sheynam, Leh Tel. : 252672

SILVER CLOUD Samkar, Leh
Tel. : 253128 252572

LADAKH CONTINENTAL Old Road, Leh,
Tel: 251359 Cell: 9419179854

CHOSPA HOTEL Old Road, Leh,
Tel: 252045, 250912 Cell: 9419177245

ALPINE VILLA Fort Road, Leh,
Tel: 251837 Cell: 9419219609

HOTEL SHANTI PALACE Old Road, Shenam,
Leh, Tel: 254523 Cell: 9906987115

HOTEL MUNSHI CONTINENTAL Fort Road, Leh,
Tel: 253607 Cell: 9906988901

Some Guest Houses in LEH

ASIA Changspa, Leh Tel: 253403

ATISHA Maipak, Leh Tel: 251106

ALIMJAN Sheynam, Leh Tel: 255297

ALL VIEW Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252761

ASHOKA Tukcha, Leh Tel: 252725

BROADVIEW Changspa, Leh Tel: 253158

CHUNKA Changspa, Leh Tel: 253382

CHAMSHEN Sankar Road, Leh Tel: 251119

DESKIT VILLA Sankar, Leh Tel: 253498

DEHLEX Malpak Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252755

FOUR WAY Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252761

DORJEE Upper Tukcha, Leh Tel: 253460

DREAMLAND Leh Tel: 252089

DOLMA Malpak, Leh Tel: 253311

EAGLE Changspa, Leh Tel: 253074

GOMANG Changspa, Leh Tel: 252650

GONBO Changspa, Leh Tel: 252712

GLACIER VIEW Leh Tel: 253503

GREENLAND Changspa, Leh Tel: 253156

GOBA Changspa, Leh Tel: 253670

GALWAN Yurtung, Leh Tel: 252509

HARMONY Tukcha, Leh Tel: 252705

HERMIT HUT Old Road, Leh Tel: 252707

INDUS Farka, Leh Tel: 252502

IRFAN Malpak, Leh Tel: 251040

JIGMET Zangsti, Leh Tel: 253563

JORCHUNG Tukcha, Leh Tel: 252463

KUNZANG Changspa, Leh Tel: 250490

KHAN MANZIL Zangsti, Leh Tel. : 252681

KIDAR Tukcha, Leh Tel: 252046

KATPAPA Katpa, Leh Tel: 253050

KAILASH Karzoo, Leh Tel. : 253295

KARZOO Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252324

LARCHANG Changspa, Leh Tel: 252797

LDUMRA Karzoo, Leh Tel: 253470

LYON Changspa, Leh Tel: 253361

LHARI Changspa, Leh Tel: 250745

LAKROOK Sankar, Leh Tel: 252987

LONG Tukcha Road, Leh Tel: 252197

MENTAL NG Leh Tel: 2 52992

MILLENNIUM Leh Tel: 252499

MILAREPA Katpa, Leh Tel: 253702

MALPAK Malpak, Leh Tel: 250580	SKIDCHAN Tukcha, Leh
MANZOOR Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252656	SILVER CLOUD Sankar, Leh Tel: 253128
MAGSOOM Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252852	SUJATA Sheynam, Leh Tel: 251232
MARYUL Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252994	SPONBO Sankar, Leh Tel: 252772
NEW ANTELOPE Chubi, Leh Tel: 252086	SERDUNG Katpa, Leh Tel: 252803
NEW STAR Fort Road, Leh Tel: 253383	SIALA Ghirgir, Leh Tel: 252821
NORBULING Katpa, Leh Tel: 252941	SIDDHARTHA Fort Road, Leh Tel: 252329
NEW MOON Katpa, Leh Tel: 250296	SUMROLEE Sheynam, Leh Tel: 252215
NEZER VIEW Old Road, Leh Tel: 251437	SKITSAL Karzoo, Leh Tel: 251242
NARO Karzoo, Leh Tel: 255138	SUMMER INN Upper Tukcha, Leh Tel: 252867
NAAZ Karzoo, Leh Tel: 253244	SKYLAND Upper Tukcha, Leh Tel: 251275
ODZER Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252652	SEMNET Upper Tukcha, Leh Tel: 250494
OTSAL Changspa, Leh Tel: 252816	TRI GEM Changspa, Leh Tel: 50277
ORIENTAL Changspa, Leh Tel: 253153	TISEI Malpak, Leh Tel: 250580
OASIS Tukcha Road, Leh Tel: 252922	TEI-SURU Ghirgir, Leh Tel: 252728
OLD LADAKH Below Palace, Leh Tel: 252951	TRAVELLER HOUSE Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252048
PADMA Fort Road, Leh Tel: 252630	TUKCHA Upper Tukcha, Leh Tel: 252923
PENGUIN Tukcha, Leh Tel: 253027	TSEMO VIEW Upper Tukcha, Leh Tel: 252296
PALACE VIEW New Polo Ground, Leh Tel: 252873	TAK Leh Tel : 253648
PAUL Leh Tel: 252650	TWO STAR Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252250
RAIWA Changspa, Leh Tel: 253206	VAJRA Leh Tel : 251114
RIBUK Changspa, Leh Tel: 253230	WARILA Sheynam, Leh
RAINBOW Changspa, Leh Tel: 252332	WISDOM HOLIDAY HOME Karzoo, Leh Tel: 252427
RINCHEN Changspa, Leh Tel: 252486	WHITE LOTUS Sankar, Leh Tel: 253352
RIMO Fort Road, Leh Tel: 253336	YAKSHA Chospa, Leh Tel: 252699
RETREAT Skara, Leh Tel: 252861	YUTHOG Katpa, Leh Tel: 253056
SOLPON Changspa, Leh Tel: 253067	YASMIN Fort Road, Leh Tel: 252405
SONAMCHEN Changspa, Leh Tel: 251417	ZEWA Changspa, Leh Tel: 253350
SHALI Katpa, Leh Tel: 253354	ZANPHAM Tukcha, Leh Tel: 252992
STANZIN Changspa, Leh Tel: 252483	ZAL Tukcha, Leh Tel: 253491
SHANTI Changspa, Leh Tel: 253084	
STUMPA Changspa, Leh	
SILVERLINE Karzoo, Leh Tel: 250344	

Some more Hotels & Guest Houses

SIA-LA GUEST HOUSE Fort Road ,
Leh Ladakh, J&K, Tel: 01982-252821,
Cell: 9419178100,
Website: www.sialaguesthouse.com
sialaguesthouse.free.fr
Email: sia_la@hotmail.com
sia_la@yahoo.co.in

GAKYI HOTEL & RESTAURANT
(Zanskar Holiday Home)
Padam, Zanskar, Ladakh, Near Tourist Office,
Tel: 01983-2455010, 9622968122, 9906996622,
Email: gaskyithotel@gmail.com

HOTEL -T- SURU Gerger Fort Road,
Leh-194101, J&K (India), Cell: 9906989699,
Email: amitkumar_do@yahoo.co.in

JAMSPAL GUEST HOUSE Fort Road,
Leh -194101 Ladakh , J&K (India)
Tel: 01982-251272 , Cell: 9622999620,
9622962057 Email: jampal.leh@gmail.com

HOTEL GRAND WILLOW,
Fort Road, Leh 194101, Ladakh (J&K) India
Tel: 91 -1982-251835, Cell: 9419178242,
Email: grandwillow@yahoo.co.in,
Website: www.hotelgrandwillow.net

HOTEL RAFICA,
Fort Road, Leh 194101,
Ladakh (J&K) India Tel: 91 -1982-252258
Fax: 252414, Cell: 9419178036,
Email: rafica3580@yahoo.com,
Website: www.hotelraficaleh.net

HOTEL LINGZI
Opp Veg. Market, Leh 194101, Ladakh (J&K) India
Tel: 91 -1982-252020 Cell: 9622999732,
Email: lingzihotel@gmail.com,
Website: www.lingzihotel.com

HOTEL SHAYNAM . Old Road Leh Ladakh,
Tel: 01982 252345 Fax: 252869
Email: gyalsean@yahoo.co ,
Cell: 9906990444, 9419179154 , 9419178484
www.hotelshaynam.com

HOTEL SHANTI PALACE , Old Road Shenam
Leh Ladakh , Tel: 01982 258523
Cell: 9906987115 , 7298544048
Email: hotel.shantipalacejnk@gmail.com
www.hotelshantipalaceladakh.com

YOUNTAN GUEST HOUSE,
Fort Road Shenam Leh Ladakh
Tel: 01982 253606

Cell: 9419219519, 9419218396

BARAT GUEST HOUSE,
Fort Road Leh Ladakh,
Tel: 01982 253029 Cell: 9419370739
Email: baratguesthouse@yahoo.com

MOONLAND GUEST HOUSE,
Leh Ladakh
Tel: 01982 252175 Cell: 9419178006

CHOSPAL HOTEL
Old Road Leh Ladakh,
Tel: 01982 252045 Cell: 09419177245
E-mail : chospahotel@gmail.com,
www.chospahotel.com

LADAKH CONTINENTAL,
Old Road Leh Ladakh, Tel: 01982 251359
Cell: 9419179854, 9906979771
Email: ladakhcontinental@gmail.com
www.ladakhcontinental.com

Pangong Tso (Lake)

150 km Alt 4267m

Opting for an overnight stay in Pangong lake is undeniably exciting for the passionate travelers, a day trip is also booked by some visitors yet that does not offer much chance to see the striking colors and charms of the lake. Traveling on Manali highway, passing through quaint villages of Shey and Thikse the first tea stop is at Karu where a road off the highway leads to Serthi village.

The valley of Chimrey has magnificent view of the Chimrey monastery atop a hill. The road offers most adventurous journey while crossing one of the highest passes "Changla" at 17380 ft. After which the downward rough road passes through the Changthang, Durbug and Thangtse. This part of journey is challenging for the driver and passengers equally. A journey of more than 5 hours and Pangong valley is visible. 6 km long and 130 km wide salt water lake Pangong is bisected by the international border between China and India.

Pangong means 'exclusive concavity' or simply 'Hollow' and Tso means a lake or a pond. The road passing through famous mountains of Changchenmo range on the north and perfect blue sky offer spectacular view, its reflection shimmers in the blue and green waters of the Lakes. Spangmik, the farthest permitted point in the area, has a fixed tented camp for night stay. Most of the travelers carry their tents with them. Nomadic people living in the tiny scattered villages around Pangong Lake are mostly of Chang-Pa tribe from Tibet and southeast Ladakh. Five miles to the south of Pangong is the Tso-Rul or Bitter Lake.

The Inner Line Permit from Deputy Commissioner, Leh, and an authorised guide is essential for visiting this area.

Local resident of the state have to get permit from the office of SP J&K Police.

Home stays are mostly managed by the shepherd cum house owner called one of them is Tundup, a Tibetan x-army man whose wife belongs from Spangmik village. Visitors can get lake facing ordinary room with a comfortable mattress on the floor for Rs. 500.

Tundup stays in a house next to let out ones, spreads the vegetarian delicacies in his own kitchen for the visitors and invites all the guests for dinner at 7 pm. Kitchen is warm with his iron made heating bukhari, full of enduring collections and an old black & white Tv that catches some doordarshan channels.

Tundup knows almost everything and speaks some Punjabi and Bengali words for the guests having supper in the kitchen. Ask continually to have food without haste, Tundop's introvert old wife is ready to serve more and loves to see guests having food that is cooked by her husband. Photo albums in the kitchen has a collection of pictures taken by the guests who stayed with Tundop, travelers from many countries have sent the picture to old yet energetic Tundop and his wife after getting charmed by their hospitality.

Early morning the lake looks most spectacular, watching the sun rise over the lake is an absolute delight for photographers.

Where to Stay : Homestays charge Rs.300 to Rs.700 for a room and Camp sites of different category around Pangong Lake charge upto to Rs.3000 approx.

RESORT PANGONG TSO Pangong
Tel. : 260176, 9419179907

WANDERLUST TOURIST CAMP
Taktak, Pangong Tel. : 251137 ,
9419343651

Where to Eat: Carry packs are essential in this, visitors are advised to carry their own provision for food while travelling to this place.

Tso-Moriri

140 km Alt: 4572 m

Off the Manali-Leh road, the drainage basins of Tso-Moriri and other lakes are in Rupshu valley. Word Tso-Moriri means a 'mountain lake', it is about 16 miles in length north to south, 3 miles in breadth. Traveling over Tanglang-la Pass towards the basin of twin lakes Startsapuk-Tso (fresh water) and Polokangka-la to Sumdo in the Puge valley – near the site of old sulphur mines. A roller coaster track leads to Tso-Moriri, ahead lies the nomadic headquarter, Kurzok, 4572 m, with a few houses and a hilltop monastery. According to a legend. It is said that a woman by the name of Chomo was riding a yak through the lake, swimming across a huge lake, when tired yak started to sink deep in the water, frightened woman screamed out "Ri-Ri, Ri-Ri until it sank along with the woman 'Chomo'. Some fixed tents are also available here. Apart from the permanent habitation, the area is inhabited by the Chang-pa tribe of nomads. While returning from Tso-Moriri, at a distance of 6 km is Tso-Kar (White Lake).

Where to Stay : Homestays and Camp sites of different category around Tso - Moriri Lake charge upto from Rs.150 to Rs.3000.

ROYAL CAMP Tsokar, Sumdo
Ph: 252661 Email: royalleh@yahoo.com

CAMP TSOMORIRI AND PASTURE
LAND CAMP, Tsokar, Sumdo, Ph: 253552
E: thesummitadventures@rediffmail.com

Where to Eat: Carry packs are essential in this, visitors are advised to carry their own provision for food while travelling to this place.

Nubra

Alt:3048 m Km: 150 Km

It was a dream trip after previous year's inability caused by the unpredicted snowfall. My friend Angchuk picked me from hotel , a local service Qualis jeep was ready to leave for Nubra near Polo ground taxi stand. A maroon cloth wearing Lama , some local boys and a teacher were my co-passengers of the trip. Angchuck advised the driver to assist me for arrangements and we started off at 8:30 am. Passing some bikers and cyclist on the rough road , our driver ably crossed the Khardung La Pass (5,578 metres), the highest motorable pass in the world.

The first stopover was the Khardung village , a lady ran a cosy restaurant where she served noodles , omelet's and tea. Crossing some army campsites based near the Nubra river , the white sand dunes on the banks of river are magnificent . Surrounded by the Karakoram Range in north and east, and fed by the Nubra and Shyok Rivers, Nubra valley was opened for tourists in 1994 and is yet to be traversed by a good number of visitors, making it as fascinating as ever. The Valley is full of sand dunes and boulder-strewn plains that used to be under a large glacier.

The famous Siachen Glacier is linked to this valley making it a strategic spot , with an average altitude of 5,753m, the Siachen Glacier is 70 km (43 miles) long making it the longest Himalayan glacier and second-longest in the world's non-polar areas. For this reason the road to

Nubra is kept open most of the time. Nubra is the largest district in Ladakh with an area of 9200 sq miles.

On reaching **Deskit**, the block headquarters, our driver stopped at the taxi stand where he introduced me to Wahid, head of the taxi stand who organized trips around the valley. After getting details of the rates and sightseeing around Wahid told me about his guest house Jamshed at Hunder. I was happy to take the offer of a room for just Rs. 600 per night. He assured me of getting some sharing taxi arranged for Turtuk which was my next destination.

Qualis driver gladly took me to Hunder where I checked in at the guest house. The manager cum cook of the guest house was from Garhwal, I just stuffed my backpack in the room and quickly went off further down to the posit where Bactrian camel are spotted and available for a ride for tourist. Double humped bactrian camels were used for the travel to China via famous silk route, now these camels are onwned by some selected families who use these for delight rides on the sand dunes of Hunder. While the camels were out for a break in the nearby shrubby area where seabuck thorn is ideal food for these camels, visitors enjoyed the charms of the sand dune valley. After some time the double hump camels gracefully walked together to the group of visitors waiting for the ride. Rs.180 is the rate fixed for a 15 minutes ride per camel. Getting on the double hump camel was like going back to ancient times, sitting in between two humps is certainly more comfortable for long journeys.

Hundar, 7 km from Diskit, is habitat to the unique and rare double humped Bactrian camels which were the only mode of transport on famous Silk Route. Now this rare species is the main attraction for every tourist visiting this incomparable destination. A camel ride is organised by a few families making it a most sought-after

sight. At Hundar, well maintained deluxe tents priced up to Rs. 3000 are available. Summur; 15 km from Diskit is Sumur, where Yarab-Tso (Holy lake) is a traveler's delight.

Turtuk

Journey to Historical Destination

A newly opened destination in 2010, which has facinated the travelers by its pristine glory and natural beauty, at an altitude of about 3000 m, located very close to the Indo-Pak border the region is dominated by Shiite Muslims of Mongol race from Baltistan. Turtuk was formerly in Baltistan till the Indo-Pak war in 1971 after which it was included in the Indian part of the state.

120 Km from Nubra journey was possible for me when I got a call early morning from Wahid about the taxi getting arranged on sharing with one foreigner, I jumped out of bed and got ready in 10 minutes. Ordered quickly for the breakfast in lawns of the guest house in another 5 minutes the quails vehicle reached to the guest house and the driver and one tall and sleek looking foreigner walked up to me. I immediately recollected the face with spectacles and asked him "Oh I know you, you are the journalist from UK" he just looked blank and yes. When I introduced myself he instantly recollected and said, Oh what a surprise, I had never thought of you being the co traveler, I said well only travel writers can be so eager to travel like this. **Amar Grover** is one of the known travel writer from UK who passionately visits India and now primarily J&K to discovers new places for travelers of the world. I offered him a cup of tea and after quick chat we started off for the mesmerizing journey to valley of Turtuk.

It was slightly cloudy and both of us were carrying our cameras and the permits most importantly. Crossing some maroon

colored stone valley and driving Nubra river we reached Turtuk village and stopped the Qualis near long **hanging bridge**. Driver informed that the old village is across the bridge, we asked to meet us after 4 hrs, both of us walked in different directions to get more close to the nature and the village. While walking through the narrow by-lanes and mud houses the village looked just the way it had been some 20 years back. Every lane had water channels flowing along near the houses. The beautifully carved **small doors and windows** were of extra ordinarily short size probably to fight the harsh winter and considering the height of the Mongol race people. It was fresh and natural, houses were built very close to each other under the tress, women folk were too shy to talk, I stopped at a narrow crossing were two bearded men were talking to each other. When I told them that I was from Kashmir they were absolutely delighted and opened up quickly, one was a teacher and other contractor.

Turtuks **economy** is mostly dependent on the agriculture, vegetables and apricots are abundant. While women work in the fields, men usually are out for work or collect wood from jungle. The main village across the bridge has total population of about 1500 while other nearby villages have 300 to 800 inhabitant. I walked upto to the end of the village and saw a government school, a young teacher from Turtuk was teaching the energetic boys and girls of the village. A bespectacled small lad enquired about me and was equally happy to my homeland.

While walking back some women folk were frying the wheat to make **Satu** (dry minced wheat) for the winter. Taking an off route through the village I crossed some farms and river beds and reached back to the bridge. A quick lunch at a dingy restaurant and off I went for another

village which was smaller than the older one, this village had newly built houses and huge **Jamia mosque** under construction, a completely wooden building in the centre of the village had a board reading "**Youth Library of Turtuk**", I was overjoyed to see a library managed by the locals for youth at such far off village. One old house in the village had a dilapidated underground wooden floor which must have been built for the purpose of safety from winter and probably also for safety from the shelling across the border in the area. I was delighted to see two kids a girl and a boy on a newly purchased bicycle in one lane of the village, which showed the hope for the development of village and fortitude of the people for their young ones. While I was waiting for Amar to return from the village, I could see the old French and one Indian couple walking very slowly towards the village this assured the growth in both International and domestic tourism in the Turtuk.

We got into the car and chatted about the village and shared the details picked up during our walk. While driving we stopped at a mile stone that indicated the distance of Turtuk and the closest villages across the border in Pakistan, took few pictures with the milestone. Further down we noticed a large stone with a graffiti "**Return of Zorawar**" I could sense the place as the last point were the General Zorawar must have returned after fighting against the Baltis.

Amar wanted to stop at the village enroute "**Bogdang**", we parked our vehicle, driver directed us towards the hill on which the village is situated. We walked upto the village, the boys of the village accompanied us through the village thinking me as a guide and Amar as a foreign tourist. One chap was pretty smart who had lived in Srinagar with his father a police officer.

While the girls were shying away the boys were taking us up to the local flour mill run on the river water, the two elderly women grinding the flour did not allow us to enter inside. We walked back to the village and the boys showed us the Jamia mosque of the village this one was well maintained fitted with large genset. Bogdang village has more well to do families than Turtuk since the men folk of the village are known contractors of the region. One beautiful , fair and chubby faced old woman carrying a child on her back did not allow us to take pictures , when I greeted her with a Salam and told her that I was from Kashmir , she gladly agreed for a photograph. All the boys bade goodbye to us , we walked down to the vehicle yet one small lad accompanied us till the vehicle telling stories about his father and brother who worked in Leh.

Travel Agents organize trips on sharing basis in Scorpio, Xylo and Innova vehicles. Buses operate from Leh to the Block Headquarters, Diskit, and also to Panamic which is famous for sulphur springs. You can either return the next day or take a three-day round trip covering Panamic, Diskit, Turtuk and a few of the major monasteries in the valley.

Inner Line Permit is required for Nubra , Turtuk and adjoining areas from Deputy Commissioner Leh is needed to visit Nubra Valley which specifies the areas to be visited in the region . It is advisable to visit with the assistance of a travel agent and a tour guide.

Where to Eat: visitors are advised to travel in groups and carry their packed food or use kitchen services of the tour operator. Back packers can try some food at the small cafeterias at the main market and bus stand.

Where to Stay : Accommodation in few, mostly in family run guest houses in Panamic and Diskit. At Sumur, some fixed

tented camps provide comfortable stay. Guest Houses and homestays in Nubra valley have reasonable charges from Rs.300 and above and the Camp sites of different category around Nubra charge from Rs.500 to 5000.

Some Guest House

SPANGLA GUEST HOUSE
Main Market, Deskit Tel: 220058

BURMA GUEST HOUSE
Main Market Deskit Tel: 220049

HOTEL SANGAM BAR & RESTAURANT
Main Market Deskit Tel: 220016

THACHUNG GUEST HOUSE
Karrakoram Guest House Deskit, Tel: 220024

SUNRISE GUEST HOUSE Deskit,
Tel: 220011

KHARYAK GUEST HOUSE & CAMPING SITE
Deskit, Tel: 220050

SAMBA GUEST HOUSE Hundur, Tel: 221348

JAMSHED GUEST HOUSE Hundur,
Tel: 221158

CHAMBA DELUXE CAMP & RESTAURANT
Hundur, Tel: 221140

HOTEL YARAB TSO, Sumur Tel: 223544

LHAROMO NORTH CAMP
Tiger Village, Sumur Tel: 252101

PALNOR GUEST HOUSE
Panamic, Tel: 247013

HOT SPRING GUEST HOUSE Panamic
Email: sunny21in@yahoo.co.in

CHURON GUEST HOUSE Panamic,
Tel: 247011

Important Contacts :

STD Code: 01982

Tourist Office: 252094, 252297, 252457
Dy Commissioner: 252010, 252049
District Hospital: 241530,
Police Station: Leh: 252108,
Nyoma-222064, Nobra-220026, Khaltisi-224030,
Police Control Room-254880

KARGIL

2704 m

District Kargil with an area of 15000 sq km is mostly constituted by the tributaries of high Indus. Kargil town, is the second largest town of Ladakh region, a valley that cultivates apricots in large quantity. It gets more rainfall than rest of region, produces plenty of wheat and vegetables. Kargil is generally a stopover on the way to Leh from Srinagar. It is a gateway to Suru and Zaskar valley. Kargil is inhabited by people known as Purig-pa, population is mostly of Shia Muslims and Buddhists in some of the areas who speak Purig language. The word Purig is derived from Pod-rigs which means Tibetan like. The people of Kargil region are said to have originated from Dards and Tibetan nomads who got settled along the river valleys. While walking through Kargil main market, one can observe the men with Tibetan looks wearing grey robes & a turban and women with their heads covered by a scarf. The architectural wonders can be observed in & outside the Imambaras around the Kargil town. Kargil is a base camp where from most of the adventurous trek originate. Kargil offers thrilling opportunities of rafting, camping and mountaineering.

Places of Interest

Drass, 60 km west of Kargil on the Srinagar-Leh highway is said to be the second coldest inhabited place in the world. This fascinating valley is inhabited by Dards of lower Indus also known as Drok-pa, who speak Shina language and belong to tribes from Gilgit. These people are also described as direct descendants of pure Indo-Aryan tribe which is visible by their physical features – tall, fair and robust. The infamous Tiger hill is clearly visible from the main highway in Drass

village. Trek to Mushkoh valley from Drass is favorite among the adventure travelers. 50 km down towards Zojila is the picturesque valley of Mini Marg, a meadow compared to the Sonamarg for its green pastures, plains and murmuring river, mostly inhabited by nomads who rear their cattle.

Mulbek (3230 m) 45 km east of Kargil is dominated by Buddhist population and has a most attractive 9 m high rock sculpture of Maitreya Buddha. Mulbek monastery is situated atop a rock on the National Highway.

Museum: A decades old deserted Sarai of Kargil converted into a Museum by the owner of the building Gulzar Hassan Munshi. The museum houses arts, crafts, jewelry and other articles that depicts the central Asian link of the region and the time of famous Silk route.

Getting there: The SRTC coaches departing every morning from Srinagar charge Rs.650 and Rs.450 for deluxe coach and Rs.357 for semi-deluxe coaches. Coaches operate from Leh to Kargil daily. Many private taxis/jeeps are available for Kargil from taxi stands in Srinagar and Leh.

Where to Eat : Kargil market has quite a few good restaurants and some dhabas where the visitors can have day meals. Eating out at the hotels is mostly preferred by the tourists in Kargil.

Where to Stay : With few good hotels around, this small town on the highway has some guest houses and low budget hotels in market place for the night stopover travelers. Hotels and Guest Houses in and around Kargil range from Rs.400 to 4000.

KARGIL CONTINENTAL
Near TRC, Kargil Tel. : 232304

HOTEL GREENLAND
Near TRC, Kargil Tel. : 232324

CROWN Near bus stand, Kargil
Tel. : 232381

CARAWAN SARAI Near Bus Stand, Kargil
Lantook, Kargil Tel. : 232278

SAICHIN Chanchik, Kargil
Tel. : 232221

D'ZOJILA Baru, Kargil Tel. : 232360

LANTOOK Kargil, Tel: 232278

RUBY Near Taxi Stand Tel: 232343

TOURIST MARGINA Near Taxi Stand
Tel: 232381

HILLS VIEW Main Bazar Drass
Tel: 274063

Dha-Hanu

165 km southwest of Leh at an altitude of 3400m off the Leh-Khaltse road, this land of 'Drok-Pa' the last race of Aryans is divided into two rugged and picturesque villages of Dha and Hanu. The people of this area have prominent features and have religious and cultural practices of pre Buddhist period as 'Bon-Chos'.

Suru Valley

Suru valley, 140 km from Kargil, is much different from Ladakh's barrenness. The Suru river rises from the watersheds at Penzila that causes plenty of water for irrigation, surplus foodgrain, willow and poplar plantations. It has Muslim population of mainly Tibet-Dard descent.

Places of Interest

The lower portion of valley offers panoramic views of Kun (7035 m) and Nun (7135 m) and other peaks in the

range. Sanku, main town of the valley has daily bus service from Kargil. A 7 m high rock sculpture of Maitreya Budha at Kartse near Sanku is worth seeing. Panikhar, 25km ahead of Sankoo, is surrounded by Nun-and Kun peaks. Some of the most adventurous treks start from this village towards Kashmir valley, Kishtwar and Zaskar while passing through high passes. Tresponse has a famous Imambara and is known for its ancient Scynthian bow making by some of the families.

Rangdum (3657m), 130 km southeast of Kargil is the farthest part of the Suru valley, the road from here leads to the Padum in Zaskar. 18th century Rangdhum monestary atop a hillock is surrounded by spectacular mountains and the scattered chortens in the area.

How to Reach : J&K SRTC has daily bus service to Suru from Kargil, other private vehicles operate on the route as well. Travel agents assistance is recommended.

Where to Stay : Few guest houses at Sanku provide accommodation to the visitors. It is strictly advisable to be a part of the all inclusive tours organized with the assistance of travel agents.

Where to Eat : Sanku market has few restaurants where the visitors can have day meals. Eating out at guest houses is mostly preferred by the tourists in Zaskar. It is strictly advisable to be a part of all inclusive tours organized with the assistance of travel agents.

Zaskar Valley

Winding rivers of ice and snow, flowing from the Shafat & Drang-Drung glacier, the largest glacier in Ladakh, outside the Siachen formation. The Stod or Doda River, the main tributaries of which meet at Padum, form the river Zaskar, flows

into Zaskar range. The head waters of Zaskar river are Yunam, the Serchu and Cherpa, which rise to the north of Himalayas near Bara Lacha. The word Zaskar means 'White Copper' or 'Brass'. Probably the white copper indicates the frozen rivers formed due to temperatures below -25 during the winter in Zaskar. The frozen Zaskar river is used as a short route to reach Nimmo called Chaddar trek, this also attracts few adventure lovers to trek in frozen region during the winter particularly in February month. The valley demands expert trekkers as the routes are rough, passes very high, rivers deep and oxygen level low at the high altitude that varies from 3000 m to 6000m. For the longer winter season in Zaskar over 07 months (Oct. to April) the hardy domestic animals like Yak, Dzo and Horses are most common in the region. The Ibex, antelopes and snow leopards are visible in higher regions.

CHADAR TREK **"Blanket of Ice"**

A True Story by Baba Mahtesir

The story of chadar started from the day when i watched a documentary on discovery channel back in 2010. It was about how people walk on frozen Zaskar river in peak winter season, when Zaskar becomes land locked for about six months due to snow. The remoteness of the mountainous region in winter is so intense that there is no access to reach Padum the block headquarters or some other high villages like Neeruk . The only way to get there is to walk the frozen Zaskar river, this trek is so dangerous that it has got its name CHADAR, the danger is not only when we walk on ice but landslides shooting stones dripping into the river. Over all this trek is really a test of everything- nerves, will , health, heart, mind , spirit and knowledge. Surviving in some harsh weathers and minus temperatures is itself a big challenge

The journey begins from landing at Leh airport when I put my mobile phone to on mode and same time got a call from a man of great wild life knowledge and a wild life photographer Intesar Suhail (wild life warden Leh Ladakh) , who was my mentor and a friend in Ladakh. When I reached the exit gate of airport I saw a Ladakhi man with a placard of my name waiting , I straight headed towards the office of wild life warden Leh after a great discussion and sharing details , I left for my hotel. Next day I was about to plan for my expedition when a man named Pervaiz came and said that he was directed by his boss (Wild Life warden) to go with me on chaddar trek and make arrangements for the trek as well. I was honouerd and encouraged by this great help provided and planned by Intesar Suhail.

I along with Pervaiz went to market for shopping for the expedition first we purchased some necessary medicines then some sheets of thermo sheets and finally food supplies for all people oin the EXPEDITION . I intended to buy some vegetables and fruits for chaddar trek but it is like finding water in desert in Leh in winter. After finishing our shopping for the trek we went to meet our potters and decided to leave next day to hit the chaddar trek . It was Pervaiz who was making all important arrangements for us. So next morning we left to Chilling a beautiful village that is a starting point of chaddar . We drove to Tilad Sumdo and within 30 minutes we were already on the frozen Zaskari river, at Tilad sumdo our potters made a cup of tea after which we started to walk on chadar the frozen river. We continued our trek for the day and the surroundings were fascinating and beautiful on the very first day I saw blue sheep behind some bushes nobody saw them except me then I called everyone to have a look this was a amazing moment to see wild life of Ladakh.

We further continued our trek and finally reached a place known as Darr , I can see a small cave and the potters pointed me towards it to tell me that we were staying there for the night. The weather was bad it was snowing and the temperature was around minus 28, it was getting dark potters cooked for us. Soon after a warm campfire and light dinner at a strange place we slept in the cave. It was like sleeping in a grave because the cave roof was so low that one could touch it with hand while sleeping. Next day we woke up early after have breakfast we again repacked and hit the chadar. Walking for next four days on chadar we explored places like SINGRA... BAKULA.... MARKALA... SINGRA, GONGMATSOMO CHUMIK.... TSEMO... ZUMGOK... HOTANG... YOKMA... TSACHU...DIIP... YOKMADO.... GONGMADOO..... RAMA SATSA ZOV KEKSA...

We used to camp in caves at different places during nights we also had two unwanted guests two elderly men 45 and 65 from Neeruk who were also walking with us on the frozen river on the fifth day on chaddar we finally reached Zov kaksa and we were only one hour short to Neeruk village , suddenly I could see potters had stopped, it was snowing and the weather was against us they said the ice sheet beyond was very fragile and weak so we should either hike a rocky cliff or take a chance to walk on the weak ice after a 30 minutes survey and discussions, it was now my turn to decide finally . Analyzing everything the weak slab and risk and being only one hour short from Neeruk the only thing that came to my mind was safety of the team so we decided to head back, it took us few more days to reach back to Tilad sumdo, walking on chaddar for eight days was satisfying itself as we had already been in very harsh conditions and difficult situations hiking on cliffs walking on fragile sheets of ice, staying at Tsomo

cave was a rewarding treat of the trip as the cave was very big and lots of wood was available . Sometime while walking on chaddar you put your foot and suddenly the feet goes deep in the broken ice , getting socks and pants wet , then one needs to change quickly nothing dries on chaddar , the range of temperature is minus 10 to minus 40, on the return it was surprising to see a group of some 120 Indian trekkers heading to chaddar, it was crazy they were walking on ice and breaking it that created a panic. A trekker was breaking ice , walking towards me and I had to walk backwards when I saw him walking like a bull on the fragile ice , I wished someone from authorities at Leh would regulate the number of trekkers on chadar reasonably to reduce pollution and disturbances created in the area for environment and wild life.

The Chadar frozen river trek is an extremely glamorous trek as well. It is easy to see why travel magazines worldwide show incredible pictures of Buddhist monks walking bare feet on the frozen river. The Discovery and the National Geographic channels have both made films on the Chadar trek. Anyone who returns from the Chaddar trek adds the aura of memories to one life. Chaddar takes generally 6-8 day trek, average mean temperature during the day is minus 10, at night temperature falls to minus 20 and 25. Ice forms, breaks and changes color on the river after every few hours. At some places the Chadar (or ice) does not form over the river. Trekkers then have to create a new trail climbing over snow covered embankments to descend to a spot on the river where the ice is more stable.

The truth is that extreme conditions are not hard to beat, with multiple layers and sensible trekking Chaddar trek is a very difficult trek but not an impossible to complete. What sets it apart is its unique

exposures and experience; the scenery, temperature, atmosphere, the frozen river, sledges, unusual camp sites, caves and the ever changing Chadar. So unique that it has to be experienced

THANKS TO INTESAR SUHAIL ,
PERVAIZ, FARHAD NAIK, TO ALL TEAM
MEMBERS WHO MADE MY DREAM
COME TRUE CHADDAR TREK
POSSIBLE IN FEBRUARY 2014.

Places of interest

(3505 m) **Padum** town is 240 km from Kargil, around 12 hours journey crossing through Panzil-la Pass (4401m). Padum is the most populous settlement of Zaskar , it also has a large number of muslim community who's origin dates back to 17th century.

Zaskar, with a large concentration of gompas, is explorer's most desired destination. 6km west of Padum is the Sani village. The attractive Sani Gompa, a castle like monestary exhibits the Kanika Stupa (associated with Kanishka, the ruler from Kushan dynasty of 2nd century). The frescoes , stucca murals and floral designs depict the life of Guru Padmasambhava who is believed to have meditated inside the monastery. A bronze statue of a famous Yogi Naropa, who meditated in Sani monastery is unveiled in late July on the eve of Naro Nasjal festival. The festival is attended by a large number of people from all over Zaskar and the Lamas of Bardan Monastery perform Mask dance as a ritual.

Other interesting places to visit are 14th century Karsha monastery, 14 km from Padum, an old nunnery Dorje Dzong near Karhsa. Stong-de Monastery, 18 km from Padum which has strenuous climb followed by breathtaking scenery. The old Bhuddhist nunnery at Zangla 35 km from Padum. 17th century Bardan

monastery 12 km south of Padum . The 12 century, Phugtal Monastary is a most isolated and spectacular site, which can be reached only by trekking routes of about 2-3 days.

How to Rech : SRTC bus service from Kargil to Padum charges Rs. 485 for deluxe coach and Rs. 348 for semi-deluxe coach. The local buses also operate on this route. One can hire a taxi from Kargil to Padum.

Where to Eat : Padum market has a few restaurants where the visitors can have day meals. Eating out at the hotels and guest houses is mostly preferred by the tourists in Zaskar. It is strictly advisable to be a part of the all inclusive tours organized with the assistance of travel agents.

Where to Stay : Hotels & Guest Houses in Zaskar charging from Rs.300 to 2000. Hotels & Guest Houses in Zaskar have charges from Rs.300 to 2000.

KAILASH HOTEL Padum 245074
hotel_kailash@yahoo.co.in

HOTEL IBEX Padum 45012

HOTEL CHAROLA Old bus stand, Padum 45035

HOTEL HAFTAL Padum

TOURIST BUNGALOW Padum

Important Contacts

STD Code: 01985

Tourist office Kargil : 2532721, 232328

Dy. Commissioner: 232216, 232644, 232222

District Hospital: 232382

Dak Bungalow: 232328

Circuit House: 232212

Police Control Room: 232275

Police Station: Kargil-232210, Baroo: 232202,
Drass:274003, Sankoo: 258101,
Zaskar:245003, Panikhar: 259074

Army : 232589

Some Festivals with Dates

Name of the Festival	Venue	2014	2015
Spituk Gustor	Spituk	28-29	January 18-19
Dosmoche	Leh & Likir Monastery	February 27-28	February 17-18
Yargon Tungshak	Nubra (Yarma)	March 5-6	February 23-24
Stok Guru Tsechu	Stok Monastery	March 10-11	February 27-28
Matho Nagrang	Matho Monastery	March 15-16	March 4-5
Saka Dawa	All over Ladakh	June 13	June 2
Yuru Kabgyat	Lamayuru Monastery	June 24-25	June 14 -15
Hemis Tsechu	Hemis Monastery	July 7-8	June 26-27
Stongday Gustor	Zaskar	July 15-16	July 4-5
Karsha Gustor	Zaskar	July 24-25	July 14-15
Phyang Tsesdup	Phyang Monastery	July 24-25	July 14-15
Sachukul Gustor	Sachukul Monastery	July 14-15	July 4-5
Korzok Gustor	Tsomoriri	July 30-31	July 19-20
Dakthok Tseschu	Dak Thok Monastery	August 6-7	July 25-26
Sani Nasjal	Zaskar	August 9-10	July 30-31
Deskrit Gustor	Nubra	October 21-22	October 10-11
Thiksay Gustor	Thiksay	November 9-10	October 30-31
Chemday	Chemray	November	November
Wangchok/Padum	Monastery	20-21	9-10
Galden Namchot	All over Ladakh	December 16	December 5
Ladakhi Losar	All over Ladakh	December 22	December 12

Fairs and Festivals

In Gompa courtyards, Lamas attired in maroon robes, perform mimes, dances and dramas symbolizing various aspects of the religion and goodwill of the people. Mesmerising performances are watched during fairs and festivals in Ladakh which is attended by a large gathering of local people and the tourists with equal enthusiasm. The biggest and most famous monastic festival is of Hemis, (late June or early July). Other monasteries, which have summer festivals, are Lamayuru (early July), Phyang (late July / early August), Tak-thok (after Phyang) and Karsha in Zaskar (after Phyang). The Phyang festival involves the unveiling of a gigantic tangkha, though here it is done every third year. Spituk, Stok, Thikse, Chemrey and Matho have their festivals in winter between November and March. Liki and Deskit (Nubra) time their festivals to coincide with Dosmochhe, the festival of the scapegoat, which is celebrated at Leh in late February. Dosmochhe is one of two New Year festivals, the other being Losar, which falls around winter time. Ladakh Festival is organised by Tourism authorities in September with much fanfare and gaiety.

Sindhu Darshan - A 3 day Sindhu Darshan festival has become a mega event in just a few years. The visitors are mainly from different parts of India, some travel in coaches, some by air and new adventure loving youth travel on bikes crossing over miles of plain and rough terrain from their respective states to Leh. The festival showcases the historical and cultural importance of the biggest and most famous river in the Ladakh terrain - Sindhu River or Indus, celebrated during the month of June. Sindhu Darshan is organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, making it the only centrally sponsored festival of J&K state.

Rivers of Ladakh

The most common name for a river is Chuu; smaller streams are called Dok-po "narrow water", Drag-po means 'rapid water' and Tsang-chung a 'small stream'. The river system in Ladakh is formed by the three great mountain-feeders - the Indus or Singge Chuu, the Shayok river and the Zaskar river.

Indus: Indus is said to flow from a loins mouth Singge-kha-bab, it rises from Gangri or Kailas range, a short way to south east of Gartop (Garo). It is also believed that the source of Indus lies to the north-west of the holy lakes of Mansarovar and Rawan Hrad, in south western slopes of Kailas mountains. The course of Indus from its source to Ranak is to the north-west, at distance of 260 miles approx, from Ranak to Pitak (opposite Leh), 130 miles in same direction - from Leh to junction of Drass river, 125 miles, changes its course to West-South-West, then to the junction of Shayok river, 75 miles with course north-north-west and from there upto Skardu, 30 miles with change in course and resuming to the north-north-west course. At Nimo, Indus is joined by the dark and turbulent Zaskar river, making a complete confluence. The junction of Waka, Suru and Drass rivers takes place at Moral. The joining of the Shayok and Indus happens above Keris. The lower part of the Indus during winter is frequently frozen, it is said that in 1841 Zorawar Singh's troops crossed over the frozen river. The entire length of Indus from Kailas to the Indian Ocean is 1977 miles.

The **Shayok River** rises from the Karakoram mountains at Sassar, flows through Shayok with southward flow. It receives the waters of the Chang-chemo (Great Chang river), river Longkonma and Nubra river. With its confluence with Indus at Keris, the total length of Shayok river is 400 miles.

Zanskar River 'Chilling-chhu' is formed of principal branches Zanskar and Sum-Gul. The head waters are Yunam, Serchuand Cherpa. The united stream called 'Lingti' has a north-west course upto Padum with a distance of 140 miles from source. It receives small streams and finally takes northerly course to make a confluence with Indus at Nimo.

Religious Symbols

Chortens : The cone shaped stupas generally painted white are built as a relic and to honour the Boddhisattavas or Living Bhuddha. The chortens 'Chaitya' in Sankrit means 'holy receptacle' and symbolize five elements of of nature ; Earth, water, Fire and Air. The base of the chorten rectangular shaped represents earth. Circular tomb shaped is water. The conical shape signifies fire and the top crescent is the air.

Prayer Flags: The monasteries, buildings, trees and chortens are surrounded by the flags, small and large. Usually made of cloth in oblong, rectangular and triangular shapes have holy inscription and signs printed on them. White flags signify the purity of thought, long narrow and oblong represents the victory, signs are inscribed to bring good luck, various colours signify thoughts of life and the written marks are the prayers.

Prayer Wheels: Wheels generally made of copper with different Buddhists inscription and shapes made on them are the holy prayer wheels. Rotating these wheels is said to bring good luck and feeling of peace and tranquility. The monks usually carry the small handy wheels and chant mantras while spinning the wheel.

Lakhang: A square space filled with images and picture is a 'holy house'.

Labrang: A lamas house or residence.

Eight Lucky Signs: The eight lucky signs of Buddhist faith represent the Eight fold path, these signs can be seen on crockery's, handicrafts and other house hold items. It said that these items with lucky signs bring prosperity and happiness in the house.

Art, Crafts n Shopping

The craftsmanship in Ladakh has been mostly used for the divinity purpose in the monasteries and homes. The wood carving with dragon designs embossed on it is a craft adopted in some villages. The daily use items like jewelry boxes and others are made in attractive colours with different lucky signs of Buddhism.

Pashmina Shawls are also woven in the villages where men and women card and spin the Pashmina, sheared from Pashmina goat. In the village of Chiling, 19 km from Nimo in Zanskar, metal work is done by the descendants of artisans brought from Nepal in mid 17th century for building statue of Buddha at Shey. The brass, silver & copper items are mostly carved with peculiar designs. There are other woolen shawls also available in colourful designs at a reasonable cost. Carpets with Tibetan design made by looping knots 'Khaptan' are made by Ladakhi men and women mainly for personal use. The locally made warm woolen cloth Pattu and robes made of this cloth are of some attraction to visitors to safeguard from the cold of Ladakh.

The most sought after souvenirs of Ladakh are the Tangkha Paintings, made on the thin white cloth 'Latha'. Some paintings are made of real gold water to keep its shine everlasting. The mural paintings in Gompas and monasteries depicting images related to Buddhist religion mark everlasting craftsmanship to be cherished and appreciated. Clay moulding is a special craft in Ladakh, the masters engaged in preparing the

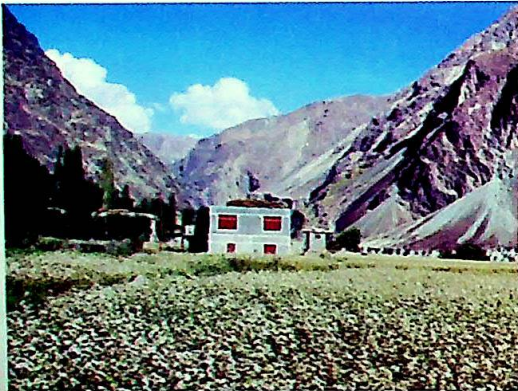


Festival in Ladakh
By Baba Mudasir





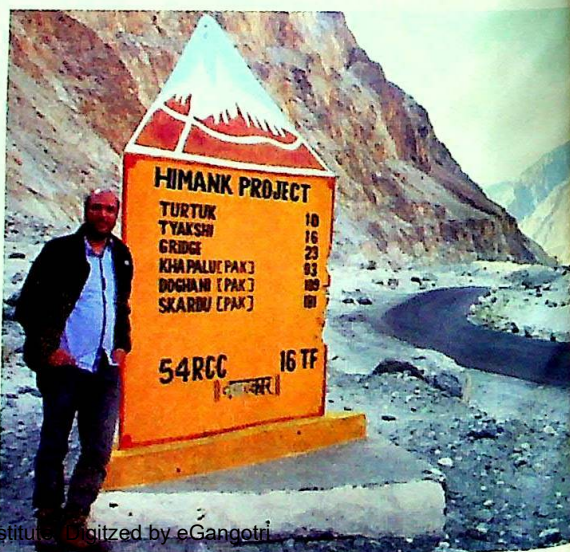
Valleys of Turtuk



Old Lady



Milestone



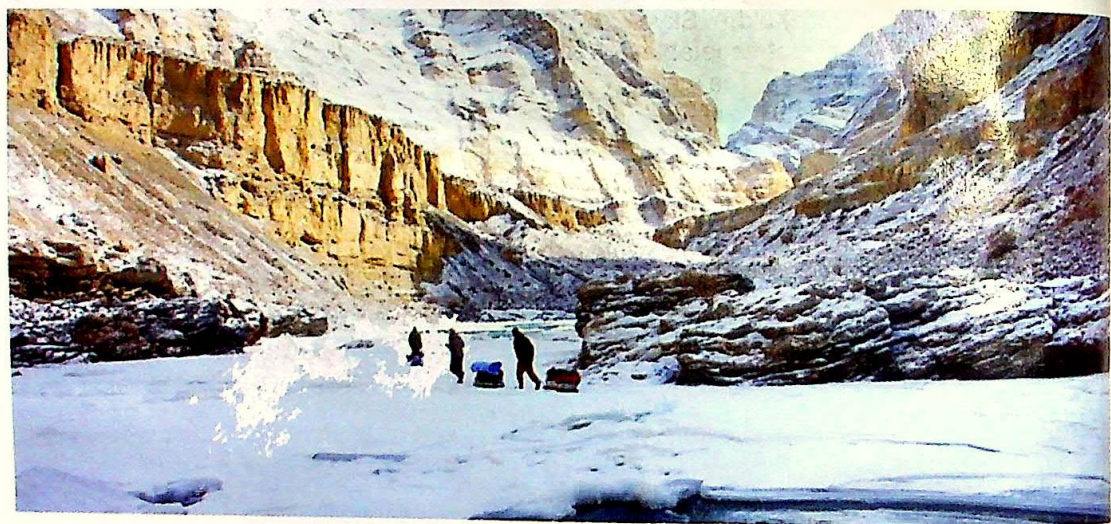


Stok Kangri

By Baba Mudasir

Camp Site in Ladakh





statues for monasteries. Some of the statues of Lord Buddha in the famous monasteries of Ladakh are created by these craftsmen. Masks and other objects are also made by the clay moulding craft. You may be interested in meeting a monk-oracle or an astrologer revered by the people of Ladakh for their spirit-healing and prediction on the auspicious occasions for establishing business, ploughing fields, arranging marriages or starting a journey. Many locally made items are also available in the markets of Leh and other villages, which can be wonderful souvenirs.

Food

Ladakhi food has a lot similarity to Tibetan food, thukpa (noodle soup) and tsampa, as ngampe (roasted barley flour) are popular at every household. Skyu, a heavy pasta dish with root vegetables is traditional Ladakhi delicacy. Tea made by churning process is Gurgur cha, served frequently during the day at ever Ladakhi household. Changarmo is the sweet tea made in the Indian style with milk and sugar. Chiang, is an alcoholic beverage drunk produced from fermented barley enjoyed by mostly male members at all festive occasions. Momos is yet another all time delicacy in Ladakh relished as a snack. Though most of the food items are of typical Chinese cuisine, some of the Indian vegetarian and Mughlai food is now favorite among many Ladakhis and cooked as regular household delicacy.

Archery, Polo & Ice-Skating

During Summer archery festivals are held with music and dance for entertainment of the villagers who gather to witness the competition. It has become popular among visitors who watch these events in traditional way with the locals. Polo is a traditional game of western Himalayan region originally brought from Baltistan to Ladakh in mid 17th century during reign of

Senge Namgyal whose mother was a Balti princess. Most of the villages in Ladakh have a polo ground where tournaments are held in summer between the teams of different villages and the army men in the vicinity. Tourists love to be part of the team or simply watch the thrilling game. During freezing temperatures in winter, Ladakh offers splendid ice-skating opportunities as the lakes and ponds in the villages are completely covered with thick layer of ice. Young boys and girls take keen interest in ice skating completions held regularly, in fact Ladakh has produced some of the champions of ice skating who have brought laurels at National and International level for J&K state.

Mountaineering

Ladakh has gained much popularity for Great Himalayan mountain range that have been mesmerizing mountaineers worldwide. The ruggedness of the region is itself a thrilling experience for every traveler; the dominating mountains challenge the avid climbers from a distant view. Mountaineers from across the world dream of scaling these peaks and feel the charisma of being on top of the world. Climbing in this part of Great Himalaya, necessitates advance booking years ahead.

Nun	7135 m
Kun	7077m
Kang-Yangtze	6180 m
Stock Kangri	6150 m
Dzo-Jongo	6125m
Gulap Kangri	5900 m
Matho West	5950 m
Mashiro Kangri	5367m
Pinnacle	6930m
White Needle	6500m
Z-1	6400m
D-41	5600m

The much higher Konglacha Peak (6,700 m) lies southwest of Leh and is reached via Rumbak on the first leg of the Markha Valley trek from Stok. Many un-named peaks in the altitude range of 5,500 metres and 6,400 metres are also available for climbing in the same region. North of Leh, across the Ladakh Range and the Nubra valley lies the Karakuram range. It soars to a number of known peaks which are within the restricted area and so not freely accessible to foreign climbers except with special permission from the Government of India. The most prominent summits in this range which are accessible from various parts of the Nubra Valley include, Saser-I (7,415 m), Saser II (7,513 m) and Saser III (7,495 m). The climbing season extends from mid-May to mid-October, the ideal period being from June to September because during this time only Ladakh remains unaffected by the monsoon. Expeditioners are required to obtain permission from the Indian Mountaineering Foundation for climbing most of the listed peaks. A booking fee is charged, based on the height and popularity of the peak, a Liaison Officer is assigned to every climbing team. The minimum period required for processing applications is six months. Every authorised expedition is provided with adequate rescue / insurance coverage in the event of accidents and illness. A list of peaks available for climbing and application forms for booking along with other requisite documents can be obtained from;

The Director,
Indian Mountaineering Foundation,
Benito Juarez Road,
New Delhi-110021.
Phone No: 671211,602245.
Fax: 6883412

River Rafting

The gigantic Indus flowing with full vigor

at most of the places offers splendid river rafting opportunities for the professional and amateur adventurers. The best white water stretch for professionals is between Spituk and Saspol beyond which the river gets dangerous. The Zaskar river similarly demands highly skilled professional river rafting. Stretch from Spituk to Karu River is easy to handle even for amateurs. The travel agents in Leh offer rafting packages to all adventurers. Over the years Ladakh has produced some of the best rafters.

Weather

In Ladakh, temperature during summer is mostly moderate through May to September, but still rainfall can start unexpectedly after the slightest cloudy weather that lowers the temperature during day and night. In Trans-Himalayan districts of Ladakh, the dry wind is mostly southerly and westerly in summer and winter. In Ladakh quantity of rain and snow is little due to extreme low temperatures particularly in elevated areas of Rukchu, Nubra, Zaskar and Ladakh proper. During the peak winter the temperature falls below -40 and remains below freezing mark from November to March. Snow fall occurs very often in the region, Leh gets few inches whereas the higher areas experience heavy snow fall. You have to be well equipped in terms of clothes and adventure gear if you intend to spend time in Ladakh. Visiting Ladakh during winter is not for the faint hearted. For Ladakh's sub zero temperature even cattle like Yak have been created with protection of fur.

Average Temp.

	Max.	Min.		Max.	Min.
January	0.1	-15.5	July	27.5	10.5
February	.5	-12.5	August	24.5	10.5
March	8.5	-5.5	September	21.5	6.5
April	15.5	-1.1	October	16.5	-0.5
May	18.5	0.5	November	8.5	-8.5
June	23.5	6.5	December	3.5	-12.5

(All temperature are approx.)

Advised Clothing

Summer (May-Sep) : Cotton wear, light woolens, sturdy walking shoes, rain proofs.

Winter (Oct-April) : Heavy woolens, thermal wear, feather Jackets, sturdy walking shoes

Note: Skin creams, lotions and chapsticks, sun glasses, hats, scarfs, thick cotton trousers / jeans for day use, wollen sweaters/ jackets, sports shoes, sandals with straps for rafting and evening wear and gloves are some items of important use for travelers.

Birds & Wildlife

Bird watching tours have become one of the attraction for travelers, high altitude birds around valleys and lakes add to the charm of rugged terrains of Ladakh. Hemis High Altitude National Park, in central part of Ladakh region is habitat for predators and other wild animals, wild cat, wolf, fox and brown bears are common to be found in the area.

Birds: 225 species from cold high-level desert of Ladakh (2750m to 7672m), annual rainfall of 160 mm. Bactrian magpies, Turkoman rock pigeon, desert wheaters, larks, kite, kestrel, many kinds of finches, ducks, geese and others species of Himalayan birds are found in the region. Migratory birds are seen during summer, most famous is the Black-necked Crane, which fly in V-shape formation.

Wildlife :

Nyan: great Tibetan Sheep is the largest and most magnificent wild sheep, remains at a great height near the snow limit. Male Nyans are attractive with long curving horns.

Urial: Small sheep known as Urial or Shapu with long horns usually found at height of 3000 to 4000 meter in the grassy mountain slopes. According to survey by Wildlife Department of Jammu & Kashmir there are only 34 to 50 sheep in the Markha and Rumbak valleys.

Yak: Locally called Brong or Dong, wild ox is the largest animal of the region, immensely hairy, weighs about a ton has curved horns. yaks graze on the Himalayan valley at height of over 6,000 meters in summer, in winters, yaks migrate to lakes, marshes and lower valleys.

Bharal : Blue sheep seen at the height of 6000 feet grazing in the meadows. Brownish-gray color provides it a protective camouflage, Bharal often stand motionless making them difficult to spot. The sheep has a vital role in Bhuddist mythology as it has appearance of sheep and goat.

Chiru : A rare Tibetan gazelle or the Tibetan antelope "Chiru" a protected species seen in small groups. This antelope was prized for its fleece which produced Shahtoosh, the finest wool. Trading of the Shahtoosh wool is banned in order to ensure the survival of these wonderful antelopes.

Snow Leopard: is one of the rarest wild animal of the region found at high altitude.

Kyang: Animal is called horse by some while other call it an ass.

Rapho-chhe : A wild goat or a 'great goat' also called 'Markhor' a snake eater found in Baltistan and Chitral is rare in Ladakh region.

High Altitude Health Precautions (HAHP)

At high altitude places like Ladakh, oxygen level is lower than what people of plains are used to. Acclimatization on arrival is very essential; one must give some (24 to 36 hrs) time to get adjusted to the change of atmosphere before indulging in any physical activity. At Leh the specialists at the hospitals are well equipped to meet any eventuality caused by the high altitude. Presence above 2700 m, i.e. 10,000 ft, can cause breathlessness, nausea, coughing, headache or any other related mountain sickness. High Altitude Pulmonary Oedema (HAPO) and High Altitude Cerebral Oedema (HACO) are very serious forms of acute mountain sicknesses. They are life threatening and warrant immediate medical treatment / attention. In such cases it is advisable to contact the nearest Hospital or Medical Dispensary situated in major villages. Please inform your travel agent/group leader or escort about your health conditions before leaving on a tour. The most common symptoms of acute mountain sickness are headache, disturbed sleep and loss of appetite, nausea, coughing, irregular breathing, breathlessness, lassitude and lack of concentration. Smoking and drinking should also be avoided till you are fully acclimatized. The symptoms of acute mountain sickness generally develop during the first 36 hours, and not immediately upon arrival. Your body should get used to the lower oxygen level of Ladakh after 2 or 3 days if you have taken complete rest for the first 24 hours and as much rest as possible during the next 12 hours.

Some Tips : Travelers are likely to experience breathlessness, dizziness, headache, loss of appetite. At Sonam Norbu Memorial Hospital in Leh qualified team doctors familiar in dealing with high

altitude sickness and other medical problems is readily available for any emergency. Visitors in Ladakh must take plenty of water and carry their own personal medicines. Carrying Regular medicine for Diarrhoea, Gastric, Acidity, Headaches, Fever, Cough, Cold, Congestion can be of great help. As a preventive measure, Tab Diamox 250 mg can be taken at the rate of 1 tablet twice a day for 3 days, at least 2 days before coming to Ladakh or any high altitude area, however Doctors consultation is must for taking the suitable medicines as per the resistance of the individuals.

Inner Line Permits

Entry into some areas of Ladakh region is restricted. It is mandatory to obtain the Protected Area Permits from the Deputy Commissioner's office at Leh for visiting Khardung-La, Nubra valley, Pangong, Tsomo-riri, Tso-Kar Dah-Hanu area of Leh district. Apart from these restrictions, several other preconditions like weather, road conditions, size of the group apply for some circuits. Travelers must carry 6-10 sets of photocopy of the permits for the checking points.

Do's

- Take complete rest up to 36 hours after arrival.
- Move slowly and breathe deeper to get used to higher oxygen levels.
- While in Ladakh use water purification tablets or boiled water or fresh water bottles.
- Eat out at a descent and a clean place to avoid gastro problems.
- Avoid smoking & alcohol in initial days.
- Contact a doctor or hospital immediately in case of any disorder.
- Refill your water bottles or cans at refill points in Leh market.
- Hire a local taxi for the tours within Ladakh, no outside vehicle is allowed to move around in Ladakh.

Don'ts

- Do not wear short skirts / sleeveless blouses or tops, in public places especially in gompas.
- Do not indulge in any type of intimate activity with

your partner in public.

- Do not take photographs of people without asking, nor inside any religious place without the permission of the monk or the in charge. Flash photography is harmful to ancient wall paintings and tapestry and is prohibited.
- Do not carry any plastic bags.

Some Travel Agents of Ladakh

ADVENTURE TRAVEL HOUSE

Hotel Zambala Zangsti Road, Post Box # 112, Leh Ladakh Ph: +91-1982-250422
Mob: 09419179816
Email: advtravelhouse@yahoo.co.uk, obzangzanskarpa@yahoo.com

ADVENTURE TRAVEL MARK Shop No 15,

Upper Tukcha Road, Hemi Complex, Zangsti Leh Ladakh India 194101
Email: info@adventuretravelzanskar.com
Tele: +91-1982-256402;
Mob: 09419178963
Website URL: www.adventuretravelzanskar.com

ADVENTURE INFINITE TREK - N - TOUR

Goba Complex, Shanti Stupa Road Leh Ladakh 194101 Ph: +91-1982-256458 Mob: 09419178319
Email: adventureinfinite@gmail.com
Website URL: www.northwestindia.com

ANCIENT TRACKS LBA Complex,

DB2, Zangsti, Leh-Ladakh-194101
Tel No: +91-1982-251583/76
Mob: 09419815176 / 09419178753
E-mail: lvisuddha@yahoo.com or lvisuddha@gmail.com
Website: www.ancienttracks.com

ANTELOPE TREK AND TOUR Chubi Road

Leh Ladakh 194101
Ph: 09419178467 / 099698417

ADVENTURE TOURS

Hotel Kangluchan Complex, Zangsti Leh . Opp Police Station Leh Ladakh
Ph: +91-1982-253022 Mob: 9419177734
Email: advtours@vsnl.com

CHOSKOR TOUR & TRAVEL Fort Road,

Leh Ladakh 194101 India
Mob: 0941988691
Email: hotelchoskor@yahoo.com

DISCOVER LADAKH ADVENTURE TOUR AND TRAVELS

Opp. Eagle Guest House Changspa Road, Leh - Ladakh 194101
Mob: 9419177745, Tel: 252471
Fax: 01982252414
E-mail: dlatours@gmail.com
Website: www.discoverladakhadventure.com

DISCOVER INDIA Gula House, Old Road Leh Ladakh Ph: +91-1982-250055 Mob: 9419178385

DESTINATION HIMALAYAS

DB 2 Zangsti Leh Ladakh
Ph: +91-1982-265050 Mob: 09419178695
Email: info@destinationhimalayas.com, sudhamma1@rediffmail.com

DRAGON TOUR & TRAVELS

Head Office: Hotel Kang-Lha-Chhen Complex Zangsti, Leh-Ladakh-194101
Tel. No: +91-1982-253022/252008
Fax. No: 01982-253605; Mob: 09419177503
E-mail: dragontourladakh@yahoo.com

EXOTIC TRAVEL

Zangsti Road, Leh - Ladakh 194101
Ph: +91-1982-256082 Mob: 09419178682
Email: phunchok@yahoo.com
Website URL: www.exoticladakh.com

EXPLORE HIMALAYAS

P. Box # 45, Main Bazar opp. SBI Leh Ladakh
Ph. +91-1982-252727/252403; Fax: 253354
Email: explorehimalayas@vsnl.com, explore4@sancharnet.in
Website URL: www.explorehimalayas.com

EAGLE EYE TOUR Malpak Complex, Opp Kangri

Hotel Leh Ladakh Ph: +91-1982-255873;
Mob: 09419178885/9697376400
E-mail: sonameett@yahoo.com

FARGO TRAVELS PVT. LTD .

Raku Complex, Fort Road Lah ladakh India
Ph: +91-1982-255655/253048;
Fax: 252675 Email: info@fargotravels.com, fargo2001@yahoo.co.in
Website URL: www.fargotravels.com

GOLDEN PEAK ADVENTURES

Goba complex, Chngspa Road Leh - Ladakh India 194101 Tel: 256379, Mob: 0941918806
Email: golden_peak@bsnl.in, golden_peak@yahoo.com
Website URL: www.goldenpeakladakh.com

GLOBAL EXPLORER Paul Guest House Complex,

DB2 Zangsti Leh Ladakh Mob: 09419243174
Email: zyago@Yahoo.co.in, naagaal@yahoo.com
Website URL: www.ladakhglobal.com

GESAR TRAVELS Shop # 16 Hemis Complex,

Zangsti Tukcha Road Leh Ladakh 194101
Ph: +91-1982-252684 Mob: 09419176931
Email: tashi@gesar-travel.com
Website URL: www.gesar-travel.com

HIMALAYAN ECO ADVENTURE

Kangla chan Shopping Complex, Zangsti Leh-Ladakh Tele/Fax: 255832/ 256232
Email: himalayaneco@gmail.com
Website URL: www.wildhimalaya.com

HIDDEN NORTH ADVENTURES

(Adventure and culture in the Trans-himalayas)
Tashi Chotak Lonchey P.O Box.133 Leh-Ladakh
E-mail: tclonchey@hiddennorth.com or
tclonchey2002@yahoo.co.in
Website URL : www.hiddennorth.com

INDIAN HIMALAYA EXPEDITION

Mentokling Complex, Changspa Road Leh
Ph: +91-1982-250144 Mob : 09419888812
Email: ladakh_786@yahoo.com

KAILASH EXPEDITIONS

Phuntsog Spon [Director marketing]
Kailash Cultural, Ethnic & Expedition Travels
Head Office India - Sankar Labrang Complex
Main Bazar Leh - Ladakh
Ph: +91-1982-254841/254841;
Mob: 09419243495/9419243495
Website URL : www.ladakhzanskar.com

LADAKH CALLING Opp. Dist Library, Near Tibetan

Market Leh Ladakh 194101 India Ph : 250446
Mob : 9419324090 / 9419319799
Email : info@ladakhcalling.com
Website URL : www.ladakhcalling.com

LADAKH ADVENTURE

Opp.Hotel yak tail Fort road leh ladakh
E mail: info@ladakhadventure.com
Website URL : www.ladakhadventure.com

LADAKH-ECO-ADVENTURES

Zangsti Leh Ladakh 194101
Ph: +91-1982-250166 Cell: 09419179149
Email: miru@ladakh-eco-adventures.com
Web.: www.ladakh-eco-adventures.com

LADAKH EXPLORE Gangba Complex, Changspa

Road Leh Ladakh 194101
Ph: 91-1982-246047 Mob: 09419841716
Email: yungdungleh@gmail.com,
stany_matho@yahoo.com
Website URL : www.ladakhexplore.com

LANDSCAPE EXPLORER Fort Road Opp. Galdan

Hotel Leh Ladakh 194101 India
Email: landscapeexplorer@yahoo.com,
sjgmth@yahoo.com
info@landscapeladakh.com;
Website URL : www.landscapeladakh.com

MAITREYA TOURS

(An exploration and Expedition Company)
T. DORJEY DAYA (Proprietary)
Lhamokang Complex, DB2, Zangsti,
Leh Ladakh
Ph: +91-1982-251466/250060; Mob: 09419176036
Email: info@spiritualhimalaya.com,
info@ladakhhimalaya.com
maitreyatours@gmail.com,
maitreyatours@rediffmail.com
Websites : www.spiritualhimalaya.com /
www.ladakhhimalaya.com

MOUNTAIN VIEW TREK & TOUR

(A Himalayan trekking company)
Raku complex leh ladakh India
Ph:+91-1982-256430;
Mob: +91-9419263740/9622960141
Delhi: +91-9911718840
E-mail: travel_ladakh007@yahoo.co.in,
mountainviewtrek@yahoo.com
Website URL : www.ladakh-trek.com

MERO EXPEDITION

Fort Road, Leh Ladakh
Ph: +91-1982-253070; Mob: 09906996624
Email: chospel5@yahoo.com

NORTH INDIA TREKKING

Malpak Complex, Near Hotel Ksngri Leh Ladakh
Ph: +91-1982-25626/25375
Mob: 09419178534
Email: phuntsogsleleh@yahoo.com

PEREGRINE DESTINATIONS

1ST Floor, Chokhang Complex,
Leh Ladakh 194101 Mob: 09419177732

PADMA TRAVELS P.O Box 173, Fort Road,

Leh - 194101, Ladags
Ph: +91-1982-255946,252514
Fax : +91-1982-255876;
Mob: 09419178171, 09906982171
Email: padmaladakh@gmail.com,
padma22@sancharnet.in
Website URL : www.padmaladakh.net
SNOW LEOPARD TRAILS Pvt. Ltd
Kangla chen Hotel Complex, Leh Ladakh
Ph/Fax : 252074/252355/252188
Email : leopard@nda.vsnl.net.in
Website URL : www.snowleopardtrails.com

SPLASH LADAKH LBA Complex,

DB2 Zangsti Leh Ladakh
Ph: +91-1982-254870 Mob: 09419178883
Email: info@spashladakh.com,
dawa_jora@yahoo.com
Website URL : www.splashladakh.com

SKY HIGH TREK AND TOUR

Shop No 8 Hemis Complex,
Tukcha Road Leh Ladakh
Post Box # 177 Leh 194101 India
Mobile: 0990699007
Email: tsering@skyhightreks.com
Website URL : www.skyhightreks.com

SNOW LEOPARD EXPEDITION

Main Tukcha Road Leh Ladakh
Ph : +91-1982-250104 Mob : 9419818993

TSARAP HIMALAYAN ADVENTURES

Munshi Complex, Fort Road
Leh Ladakh India 194101 Mr. Stanzin Norbu,
Email: adventure-zanskar-leh@yahoo.co.in
Tele/Fax : 250386 Mob : 09419815563
Web. : www.starapadventureszanskar.com

TRAVEL CORPORATION OF LADAKH (INDIA)
 Gula Chambers, Old Road Leh Ladakh
 Ph : +91-1892-250055/251812
 Fax: 250574
 Mob: 09419178386
 Email: tcladakh@gmail.com
 Websites : www.tcladakh.com,
 www.discover-ladakh.com

THE SUMMIT ADVENTURES
 Next to Eagle Guest House Changspa Road
 Leh Ladakh
 Mob : 09419657123 / 09622959699
 Email: thesummitadventures@rediffmail.com
 Website URL : www.ladakhs.com

TSMORI TOURS & TRAVELS
 Fort Road Leh Ladakh India 194101
 Ph: +91-1982-253622
 Mob: 09419178029 / 099069911272
 Email: tsomori@yahoo.com,
 ajazradhu@gmail.com
 Website URL : www.ladakhtsomori.com

VAJAR VOYAGES
 P.O. BOX. 212
 Leh-Ladakh-194101
 Tel. +91-1982-252043
 Mob: 09419178798
 E-mail: dawahanu@yahoo.com
 Website URL : www.vajira-voyages.com

WILD EAST ADVENTURE,
 Hemis Complex, Upper Tukcha Road,
 Leh Ladakh 194101 India
 Ph: +91-1982-250505/250939
 Mob: +91-9419219215
 Email: mail@wildeastadventure.com
 Website: www.wildeastadventure.com

YASMIN TREK & TOUR
 Fort Road Leh Ladakh 194101
 Ph: +91-1982-252631/251071
 Cell: 09419269690/962296692
 Email: yasminladakh@yahoo.com
 Website : www.yasminladakh.com

ZEN TOUR & TRAVEL
 Hotel Royal Ladakh @ Upper Karzoo Road,
 Samkar, Leh-Ladakh-194101
 Ph: +91-1982-250576/253613
 Mob: 09419178829/9906985529
 E-mail: zentravel@rediffmail.com
 Website : www.hotelroyalladakh.com

ZANSKAR THEMA TOUR
 Hemis Complex, Zangati road,
 Post Box No 112 Leh Ladakh India 194101
 Mr. Tsetan dorjey,
 Email: tsetan_tsezar@yahoo.com
 Ph.: 0091- 9419886414
 Website : www.zanskar-thema-tour.com

TOUR DE HIMALAYA
 Shop No. 1 Zangsti Road,
 Near Kunga Guest House Leh Ladakh,
 Cell: 9419658892 , 9797494666
 Email: info@tourdehimalaya.in,
 chirpon@yahoo.com, www.tourdehimalaya.in

ACHINA TRAVELS (BIKE HIRE)
 Opp Leh Chin Bar, Zangsti lane Leh, Ladakh
 Cell: 9419320398
 Email: konchok_rafstan@rediffmail.com

SOMA ADVENTURE (BIKE HIRE)
 Lharjey Complex,
 Changspa Road, Leh Ladakh
 Cell: 9622970284 , 9596931127
 Email: somaadventure@gmail.com

APEX ADVENTURE TOURS (BIKE HIRE)
 Pal House, Zangsti Leh Ladakh,
 Cell: 9419218233 , 9622975375
 www.apexadventuretours.com

Suggested Itineraries

9 Nights 10 Days

- Day 1 : Arrive at Leh, check into hotel, evening relish the Ladakhi cuisine at restaurant.
- Day 2 : Get acclimatized, visit nearby local market for shopping usable items.
- Day 3 : Visit nearby monasteries in Leh.
- Day 4 : Visit Stok village and trek in the nearby areas for the day.
- Day 5 : Visit Pangong lake
- Day 6 : Have local sightseeing
- Day 7 : Catch a flight to Srinagar, check into houseboat, evening shikara ride.
- Day 8 : Have local sightseeing of Gardens and religious places in Srinagar.
- Day 9 : Visit Gulmarg, stay overnight.
- Day 10 : Transfer to Airport, fly back home.

6 Nights 7 Days

- Day 1 : Leave from Srinagar by road towards Sonamarg, after start off towards Kargil crossing via Zojila Pass and Drass. Stay overnight at Kargil.
- Day 2 : Early morning leave towards Leh, on reaching Leh at late evening check into hotel.
- Day 3 : Get acclimatized, rest full day, evening visit local market.

- Day 4 : Visit nearby monasteries in Leh.
- Day 5 : Visit Stok village trek for the day.
- Day 6 : Leave for Pangong Lake , stay at tents.
- Day 7 : Leave for Manali, enroute visit Tso-Moriri.

5 Nights 6 Days

- Day 1 : Arrive at Jammu airport, transfer to Katra check into hotel, visit Mata Vaishno Deviji cave.
- Day 2 : Return from holy cave, rest at the hotel in Katra for full day.
- Day 3 : Transfer to Airport, fly to Leh, on reaching Leh check into hotel, get acclimatized, evening visit local market.
- Day 4 : Visit nearby monasteries.
- Day 5 : Visit Pangong lake .
- Day 6 : Transfer to airport, fly to Delhi.

4 Nights 5 Days

- Day 1 : Arrive at Leh airport, check into hotel, get acclimatized, evening visit local market.
- Day 2 : Visit nearby monasteries.
- Day 3 : Visit Stok Village, trek for the day.
- Day 4 : Visit Pangong Lake .
- Day 5 : Transfer to airport, fly back to Delhi.

Some Important Contacts & Addresses

STD Code Leh : 01982

- J&K Tourism- Dy. Director Tourism, Leh : 252094, 252297 (Telefax). Tourist Officer, Kargil : 2532721, 232328 (Fax)
- Dy Commissioner, Leh : 252010, 251027 Kargil : 232715
- Cultural Academy : 252088
- Tourist Complex: 252457 Dak Bunglow: 253462
- All Ladakh Travel Operators Association, Raku Complex, Leh, Ladakh (J&K), Pin - 194101 Tel. 256007, Cell: 9419178038 E-mail : altoa@sancharnet.in

- All Ladakh Hotel & Guesthouse Association, Hotel Langlacha Complex, Leh, Ladakh (J&K) Pin - 194101 Tel. 252144.
- Indian Airlines (City Office) : 252076 Airport : 252255
- Jet Airways (City Office) : 250444, 250132, Airport : 250380, 250487
- Post office, Leh : 252056
- Bus Station SRTC : 252085
- Private Bus Operators : 252792, 253262
- Postal Enquiry : 252015
- District Hospitals - Leh : 241530, Kargil : 232382
- Leh Taxi Union : 252723-5, 253039
- JKSRTC, Leh : 252085
- J&K Bank, Leh, 253126
- State Bank of India, Leh, 252052
- Foreign Registration Offices, Tourism counters (Airport & other Check points).

Police Stations

- Police Control Room Leh : 258880, 241280
- Police Station Leh: 252018
- Police Station Nyoma: 222064
- Police Station , Nubra: 220026
- Police Station , Khaltsi : 224030

LHDC :

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Chief Ex. Councilor | 252212 |
| Chief Ex. Officer | 252010 |
| LEDeG | 252646 |
| MIMC | 264372 |
| Womens Alliance | 250293 |
| SHO Leh | 252018 |
| Filling Station | 252247 |
| Post Office | 252056 |

[illegible]

JAMMU

Region with distinct people and rustic places, climate akin to the northern India, Jammu is surrounded by Pirpanjal and Shivalik mountains. With a total area of 2336 SqKm and population of 15.26 lacs, 10 districts of Jammu division offer combination of amazing cultures and nature to the visitors. Jammu city is the winter capital of J&K state, during ending October to April when the climate is pleasant in the city the secretariate is officially present in Jammu. Bestowed with innumerable temples it is famous as "City of Temples". The people of Jammu constitute of several races and mixed culture spreading from Chenab to Ravi. Popular as Dogras, who speak Dugar language Jammu'ites are friendly in nature and born warriors.

Word Dogra has geographical significance than ethnical, it is applied to the people who inhabit hilly country between the rivers Chenab and Sutlaj, whether Hindu, Muslim, Brahman, Rajput, Rath or Ghirts. The term Dogra is said to be derived from Sanskrit words 'Do' and 'garath' meaning Two Lakes (Surinsar and Mansar). Another account defines word dogra derived from the duggar, Rajasthani name for mountain which was introduced by Rajput warriors from south who founded Jammu.

History of Jammu

Rajdarshani ascribes the foundation of Jammu to about 3650 BC. Kingdom of solar race of Ayodhya spread over Shivalik hills to river Ravi & Chenab when Sudharshana the 20th descendant of Rama ruled Ayodhya. His younger son, Agnigir, migrated to Shivalik hills and traveling through Nagrota, reached the banks of Ravi and ruled at Bupanagri, the present Kathua. Agnigir was succeeded by chief-ships of many Rajas, one of

whom was Agnigarbha who had 18 sons and was succeeded by his eldest son Bahu Lochan, who founded Bahu Nagar (today Bahu Fort stands here). His brother Jambu Lochan, who ruled during 6th century in Kalyuga, i.e 2500 BC, expanded his dominion and desired to build his capital at an ideal place. One day while hunting, he saw a deer and a tiger drinking at the same pond. He was informed that the soil of the place excelled in virtues, so no living creature bore animosity against each other. He founded a new town at this spot and called it Jambupura (today Purani Mandi stands here). Jambu Lochan was succeeded by his son Puran Karan who shifted capital from Bahu Nagar to newly founded Jammu. It is believed that in the 14th century B.C Raja Bahu Lochan and Jambu Lochan founded the twin cities of Jammu and Bahu. Excavations of copper plates at Chamba indicate to an independent state called Durgara now known as Jammu. Alberuni who traveled in India between A.D 1017 to 1031 mentions Jammu. Rajtarangni neither mentions Jammu nor Durgara which could be due to the fact that capital of Durgara was at Babbapura now known as Babor, 27km east of Jammu. While the other small states of Jammu region mentioned in Rajtarangni are Vallapura (Billawar), Bhadravaksh (Baderwah), Kashtavat (Kishtawar) and others.

Down the line, successors ruled Jammu and extended the kingdom to Banihal and Kashmir. Descendants of Kirti's, Ajay Dhar, Vijay Dhar & Vijra Dhar according to one version ruled between 1110 to -1125 AD. Dhars were succeeded by Dev's, Surya Dev (1125-1150) was the first king of Dev dynasty. The off shoot of Dev dynasty is Dogra/ Jamwal dynasty which ruled till 1947. Opposing the Turk invaders Dev dynasty kings became allies of Muhammed Ghori against the Prithvi Raj Chauhan. Dev's united the smaller states into larger one and built the

temples of Krimchi and Babbaur. Mal Dev was the king of the dynasty to fight Timur in 1399. Timur entered Shivaliks, Kangra and crossed Trikuta hills to conquer Jammu in 1399, marching from Mansar. Malfuzat i Timuri, Tawareek e Rajputana Mulk-e-Punjab and Tareekh-e-Kashmir-e-Azami (1417) are the oldest record where the Jammu has been mentioned by its present name although the town existed almost 500 years ago. This indicates that Jammu was found around A.D 900.

Bhim Dev ruled in 1395, who came to terms with the Timur and helped him to conquer Jasrath. Bhim Dev was succeeded by five kings of Dev dynasty, Jag Dev and Samil Dev in a dispute started Bahuwal and Jamwal lines. After Mughal rule in Delhi, Himayun had a sway over Jammu kings. In 1542-43 Sher Shah Suri defeated Kapur Dev. During Akbars ruin in India, the chiefs of the hill states of Jammu submitted after a long revolt before the Mughals and Jammu remained a Mughal province.

After the death of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1707, Jammu expelled Mughal officers and became independent, this happened during the Dhrub Dev's reign. Ranjit Dev son of Drubh a notable king of Jammu (A.D 1733) was removed by Zakariah the Mughal emperor of Punjab. Ahmed Shah Durrani an Afghan conquered Punjab in 1752, Ranjit Dev supported the Afghans who gave Ranjit the larger estates of Jammu and territorial rights of Kashmir after the invasion of valley in 1762. Ranjit Dev with his power conquered other nearby states between Chenab and Ravi including Poonch, Rajouri and some areas of Punjab and Himachal. Ranjit Dev's brother was Surat Singh - his grandson was Kishore Singh, whose three sons were Gulab Singh, Dhian Singh and Suchet Singh.

Punjab took over Lahore and marched to Jammu. In AD 1812, Jammu was assigned as Jagir to his elder son, Prince Kharak Singh. On realizing the spirit of Jamwals, Mian Mota of Jammu was made the Minister by Sikhs. In 1818 Maharaja Ranjit Singh gave three brothers title of Raja- Dhiyan Singh received Poonch as jagir, Suchet Singh got Bandralta (Ramnagar). In 1819 Gulab Singh conquered Rajaouri and Kishtwar for Lahore kingdom, he was bestowed Jammu as his Jagir and he became Maharaja in AD 1822. The Jammu region was given on lease to three brothers for administration on behalf of Lahore. Gulab Singh appointed Zorawar Singh as Hakim (Governor) of Kishtwar who further advanced to Ladakh, Baltistan and Tibet for expansion of the empire.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh entrusted Gulab Singh with administration of large territories and transferred the lease of Gujarat in AD 1830, which yielded huge revenue. After Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death, Gulab Singh succeeded in getting control of Sialkot and appointed a governor in Peshawar. He purchased Kashmir from the British against a sum of money, some cattle, gifts and a yearly tribute under the Treaty of Amritsar in AD 1846. His forces joined the British troops and he got the title of Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir. Thereafter Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh became the empire of Dogras whose rule lasted up to 1947. From 1857 to 1885 Maharaja Ranbir Singh (son of Gulab Singh) ruled the state, rule of Maharaja Pratap Singh was seen during 1885 to 1925 and the last dogra ruler was the Maharaja Hari Singh whose reign started from 1925.

Getting There

By Road : Well maintained National Highway 1A connects Jammu with rest of India, with Lakhanpur as the gateway to the state. The State Road Transport

In AD 1800 Maharaja Ranjit Singh of

Distances from Katra, Altitude & Average Temperature

Location	Distance	Altitudes	Winter		Summer	
			Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Katra	00 Km	2500	03	15	20	41
Banganga	01 Km	2800				
Charan Paduka	02.5 Km	3380				
Adhkuwari	06 Km	4800	01	14.5	16	33
Himkoti	08.5 Km	5120				
Sanjichhat	09.5 Km	6200				
Bhawan	13.0 Km	5200	- 02	13	15	30
Bhairon Ghati (Via Bhawan)	14.5 Km	6619	- 03	11	12	26

Inquiry, assistance and announcement booths : Katra, Adkuwari, Himkoti, Sanjichhat and Bhawan.

Information Counters : General Bus Stand, Jammu, Jammu Tawi Railway Station Jammu Airport.

Travel distance chart from Katra to some tourist places.

Katra	52	40	18	20	97	92	119	109	98	90	81	53	48	42	45	12	0
Charai Muttail	50	48	20	11	88	83	108	100	89	81	72	44	39	30	33	0	
Krimchi	67	55	37	27	58	53	74	64	64	56	47	19	14	12	0		
Udhampur	64	52	34	24	50	45	77	67	56	48	39	11	6	0			
Ladden Kottli	70	58	40	30	55	50	75	66	60	53	46	15	0				
Samroli	75	63	45	35	39	34	66	56	45	37	28	0					
Kud	103	91	73	63	38	33	38	28	17	9	0						
Patnitop	112	100	82	62	47	42	29	19	8	0							
Batote	120	108	90	80	55	50	37	27	0								
Sanasar	113	119	101	91	66	61	10	0									
Sankhpal	141	129	111	101	76	71	0										
Sudh Mahadev	112	100	82	72	5	0											
Mantalai	117	105	87	77	0												
Kali Mata Mandir	48	28	10	0													
Jajjar Kottli	30	18	0														
Kol Kandoli	12	0															
Jammu	0																

Corporations of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi have daily bus services to Jammu, which culminate at the Bustand terminus, Jewel Chowk and further on at Katra. J&KSRTC has daily bus service from Delhi to Jammu, A/C and non-A/C coaches from Tees Hazari, Delhi. Luxury and sleeper coaches of private transporters operate from various Red Fort areas in old Delhi generally in the evening for Jammu. Advance and on-spot bookings are available for all type of deluxe couches having daily service for Jammu. The coach stops for dinner between 9 to 10 pm at roadside Dhaba where vegetarian food is available at reasonable price. The overnight journey on highway passing through villages and agricultural land of north India is quite comfortable. The morning stopover is usually at the Lakhampur, which is the check point for entering into the J&K state area.

Transport facility at Jammu: Transport service of all kind is available at Taxi stands at Airport, Railway Station, TRC Jammu and Bus stand area in the city. Travel agents and local transporters also arrange taxis for sightseeing and inter/outer state services. Ordinary and luxury coaches operate on most of the tourist destination routes, starting from Jammu Bus Stand as well as from the highway. The regular sumo service operates from Jammu city Bus stand for other district of the region.

Distances

Delhi - Jammu	: 586 km
Amritsar - Jammu	: 243 km
Pathankot - Jammu	: 110 km
Chandigarh - Jammu	: 288 km
Ludhiana - Jammu	: 278 km
Manali - Jammu	: 428 km
Shimla - Jammu	: 341 km
Srinagar - Jammu	: 298 km

Dogri

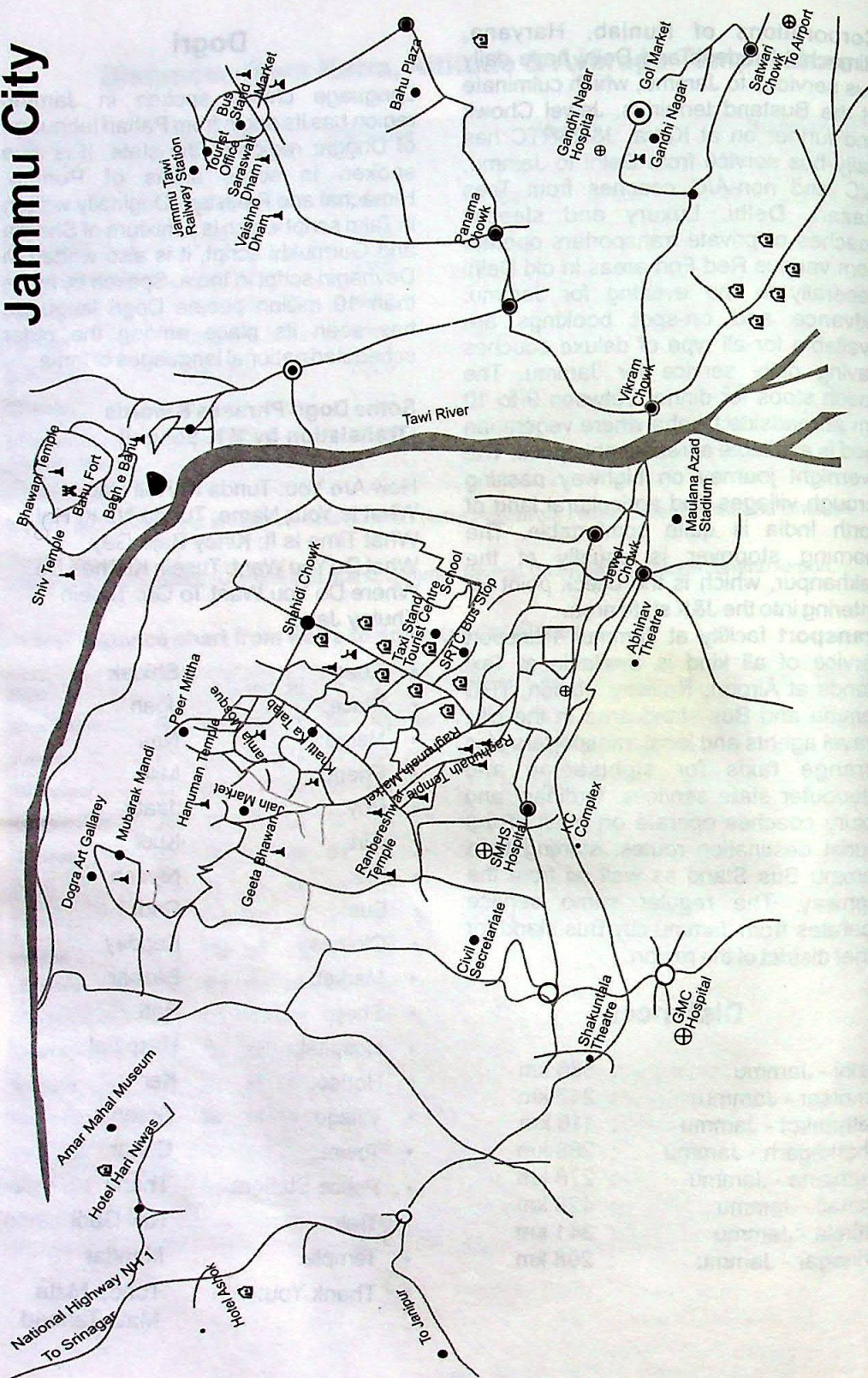
Language chiefly spoken in Jammu region has its origin from Pahari language of Duggar region of the state. It is also spoken in some areas of Punjab, Himachal and Pakistan. Originally written in Takri script which is a mixture of Sharda and Gurmukhi script, it is also written in Devnagiri script in India. Spoken by more than 10 million people Dogri language has seen its place among the other scheduled national languages of India.

Some Dogri Phrases & words (Translation by V K Sehgal)

How Are You: Tunda Ki Hall Hai
What Is Your Name: Tunda Na Ki Hai
What Time Is It: Kiney Baje Gay
What Do You Want: Tusein Ki Chae Da.
Where Do You Want To Go: Tusein Khutey Jana.

• Road :	Shidak
• Place:	Jgah
• Name:	Naa
• Friend:	Mitr
• Boy:	Jaatg
• Girl:	Kudi
• Kid:	Niyana
• Bus:	Gadi
• Clothes:	Kapdey
• Market:	Bazaar
• Shop:	Hati
• Hospital:	Haspatal
• House:	Kar
• Village:	Grann
• Town:	Chear
• Police Station:	Thana
• Train:	Rail Gadi
• Temple:	Mandar
• Thank You:	Tunda Mata Mata Tanbad

Jammu City



Jammu City

Alt : 305 m

Aura of blessings showered by gods, is the first feeling when one gets the site of temples present in every nook and corner of the city. Jammu has cultural similarity with northern India particularly the Punjab region; a difference made by the Dogri language perhaps outshines Jammu from the rest. The uphill journeys to most of the residential areas makes a leisurely walk more thrilling in the area. The old city has some of the most captivating areas like Panjtirthi, Parade, Jama masjid, Jain bazaar and Khati-ka-talab where the lively bazaars and closely built houses make a visitors walk pleasant even in torrid summers. The modern areas of Ghandhi Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, newly settled Sidhra township and multiplexes railhead area, compete with developed cities of India. Jammu is bustling with Kashmiri people during winters when it takes over as winter capital of the state. Presence of a large number of Kashmiri Muslims and Pundits has diversified the cultural richness of Jammu which itself speaks of the hospitality and co-existence quality of the Jammu'ites. Generally a stopover of the travelers from Kashmir valley and Vaishno Deviji, Jammu city has become a shoppers stop where bustling markets sell all type of handicraft, dry fruits, indigenous gift items from across the state. Mini buses and auto-rickshaws make the city roads rather lively while the modern flyovers keep the traffic under control.

Place of Interest

(Distances are in 'Km' and from Raghunath Bazaar).

Raghunath Temple : One of the oldest temples in heart of the city, Raghunath

Temple houses deities representing the Hindu pantheon, visited by a large number of pilgrims every day. Its construction was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1851 and was inaugurated six years later by his son, Ranbir Singh. Raghunath Bazaar, the area surrounding the temple, is most crowded & a shopper's delight. The tourist and local's queue up from early mornings to pay their obeisance to the holy deities.

Ranbireshwar Temple (3 km) Located on Shalimar Road, was built by Maharaja Ranbir Singh in AD 1883 dedicated to Lord Shiva. It has one central lingam measuring 7½ feet in height, twelve Shiva lingams of crystal measuring from 15 inches to 38 inches. The marigold flower sellers outside the temple keep most attractive garlands which are offered at the sanctorum by the visitors.

Peer Khoh : (3.5 kms) Peer Khoh is a cave shrine located on the Circular Road, which has a mysterious, naturally formed Shiva lingam.

Mahamaya Temple: (6 km) This temple is situated on the Bypass road, behind Bahu Fort and overlooks River Tawi. A small garden surrounded by forests provides a spectacular view of the city.

Peer Baba : (7km) A shrine of Peer Budhan Ali Shah or Peer Baba, according to local belief, protects the people of this city from mishaps and evil spirits. 7 Kms in the outskirts of the city towards the aerodrome at Satwari, is the popular shrine of Baba Buddhan Ali Shah who was born at Talwandi in Punjab. Another shrine of this Peer is located at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab.

Peer Mittha : Shrine of Syed Abdul Rehman who came from Baghdad is located in Mastgarh area of Jammu (6km). It is said that saint used to give

sugar (Gurr) to the visitors for which it was called Peer Mittha (Saint of sweets). He spread feeling of brotherhood among the people of Jammu, today people of all faiths pay obeisance at the shrine.

Baba Roshan Shah Wali : Arabian saint travelled Asian peninsula in 6th century and reached Jammu, he settled at the plateau outside town in a dense forest. A large grave built on the slope of Gumat stands today as one of the most revered shrine of Jammu.

Gadhadharji Temple : (5km) Constructed by Maharaja Gulab Singh, near his palace (Mubarak Mandi) soon after becoming the ruler of the State, Gadhadhargi temple has two life size statues of Narayana and Lakshmi.

Parmandal: (40 km) Southwards on the Pathankot road, is the charismatic Parmandal Temple complex, situated on the banks of an underground river. The river is cloaked by sand, and one can feel the water oozing out by a mere touch of the feet. People dig pits in the sand beds and bathe by the water that comes out as the Dewak which is believed to be part of the Ganges. Devotees also take sacred water with them for purification of their houses. For this reason it is often referred to as Chota Kashi.

Bahu Fort: (4 km) The majestic Bahu Fort, the oldest edifice extant in the region is situated on the banks of River Tawi. It is surrounded by a lush green terraced garden full of waterfalls and flowers, popular as Bagh-e-Bahu, a favourite picnic spot for the city folks.

Amar Mahal : Overlooking the River Tawi, Amar Mahal Palace has characteristics similar to European castles. Built by Raja Amar Singh in about 1906. A portion of the palace has been converted into a museum, which also houses the city's finest library of antique

books and paintings. Another part of the palace has been converted into a heritage hotel that offers breathtaking views and royal services to the visitors.

Mubarak Mandi and Dogra Art gallery: (5km) Built in AD 1824, Mubarak Mandi Palace is full of Mughal and Rajasthani architecture with awesome designs on the walls. The illumination of the fort during festival season in Jammu brings back the charm of royalty to the palace. The museum complex adjacent to the palace has halls full of historical monuments and artifacts. The main hall displays an 11th century old sculpture of Bhairva from Parmandal, royal garments of Dogra regime, mineral stones of Kushan period and Mughal coins. Some of the oldest of sculptures are the human figures of red clay from 4th-5th century AD from Akhnoor. There are world famous paintings of Krishna-Sudhama series from 18th century AD. The ground floor has a modern art gallery where Large sculpture of General Zorawar Singh is a main highlight. The gallery also displays paintings and miniatures of different periods from Basohli, Jammu and Kangra. The gallery also has Shahnama and Sikandernama, handwritten manuscripts in Persian. The museum is open on working days from 8 am to 2 pm during summer and 10 am to 4pm during winter. Museum remains closed on Mondays and government holidays.

(Some of the articles in museum have been shifted due to a recent fire from Toshakhana).

Akhnoor: 32 km from Jammu , Akhnoor is situated on the banks of Chenab river which is popular for its association with the folk romance of Sohni and Mahiwal. At Jeopitha temple on Chenab the first Dogra King of J&K , Maharaja Gulab Singh at the age of 16 yrs was coronated on 16th of June 1822. The magnificent Akhnoor fort on the banks of Chenab

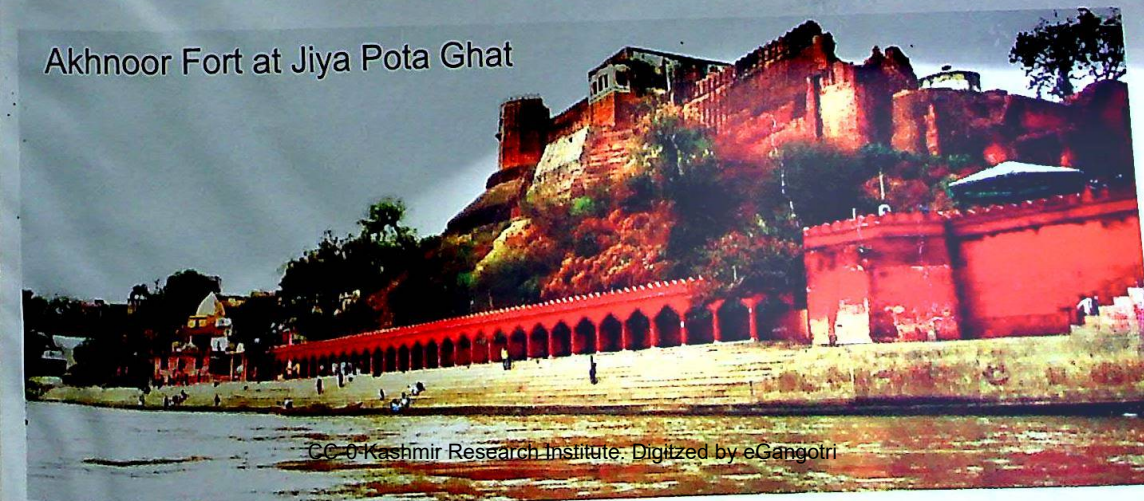


Raghunath Temple

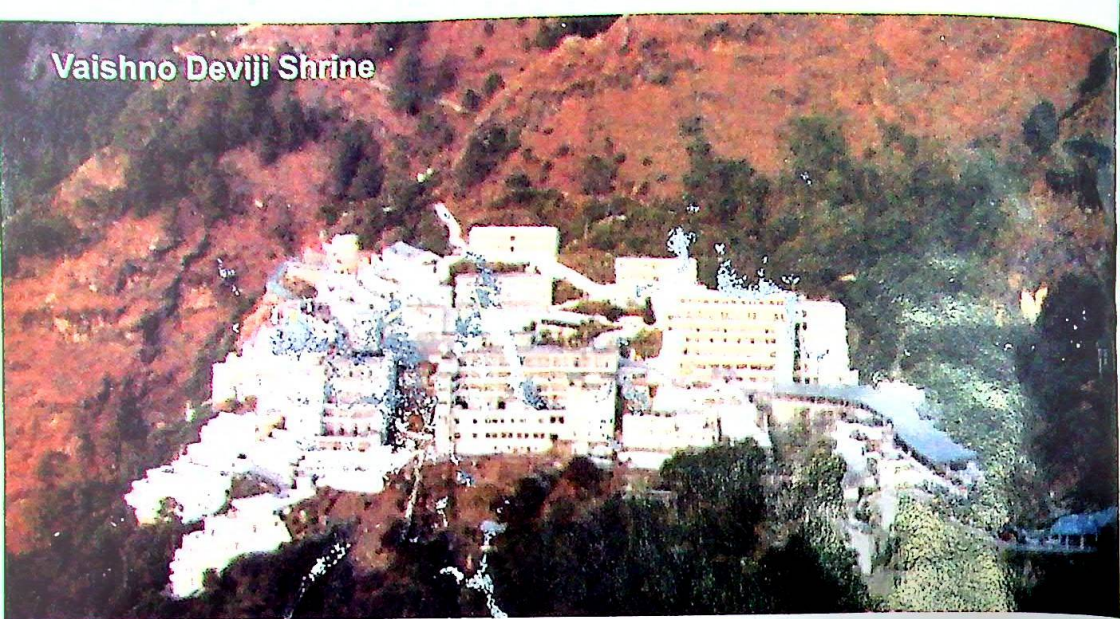
Amar Mahal
By V K Sehgal



Akhnoor Fort at Jiya Pota Ghat



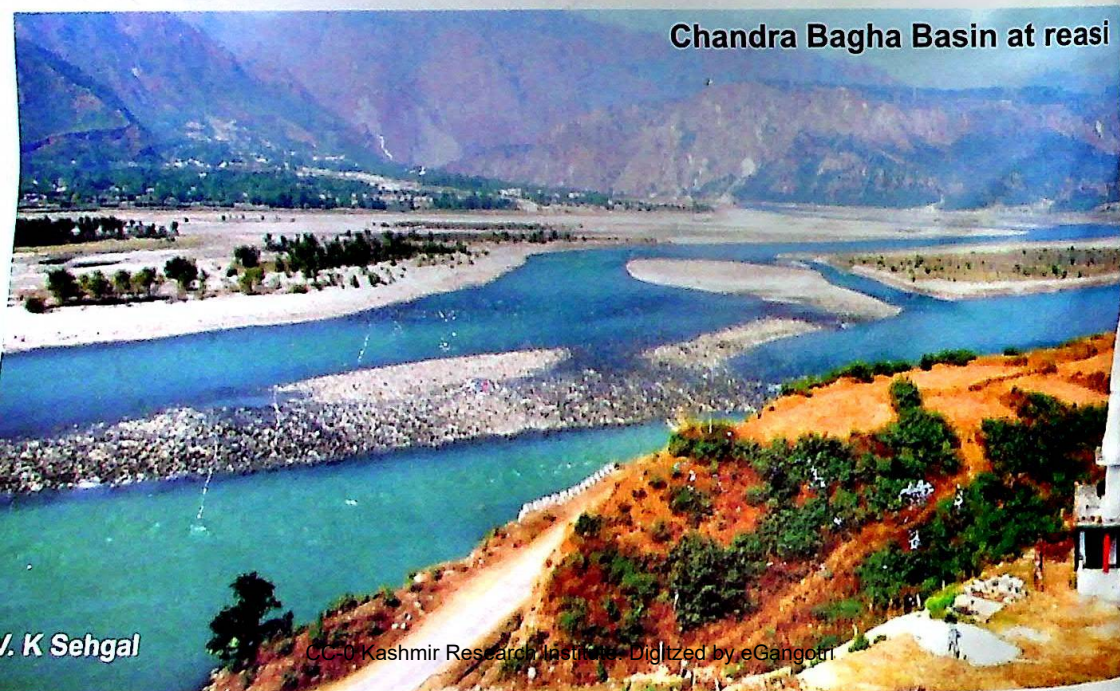
Vaishno Deviji Shrine



Holy Pond at Baba Dhansar



Shivkhori temple



Chandra Bagha Basin at Reasi



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Raghunath Bazar



Folk Dance at Festival



Ranbareshwar Temple



Budan Shah Shrine

offers a breathtaking view. Its work started in AD 1762 by orders of Raja Tegh Singh and was completed in 1802 AD by Raja Alam Singh. The fort is said to be perched upon the ancient site dating back to Harappan period, excavations have revealed the remains of monastery, terracotta heads and pottery from 4th-8th century AD near Ambran. A two storied palace on southern side is another interesting site to see. Shiv Gufa also known as Pandav Gufa on the banks of Chenab is said to have been discovered by the Pandavas.

Sui & Burj : Enroute Jammu-Akhnoor road are the ancient temples of Sui & Burj which are famous for metal idols and wall paintings having influence of Mughal, Pahari and Basohli school of paintings.

Basohli : 125 km south east of Jammu in Kathua district, Basohli is about 52 km from Pathankot near the famous hill station "Dalhousie" in Himachal Pradesh. Originally called Vishwasthali, 'Vishva' means 'the world' and 'sthal' 'the place'. Raja Bhupat Pal is considered the founder of the present day Basohli in AD 1635. Basohli miniature paintings based on the theme of Vaishnavism are of major interest in the region.

Billawar and Sukrala Devi : A village near Basohli, the ruins of a temple in Billawar and the ruins of old wells known as baulis is worth seeing. Its old name was Vallapora, Rajtarangni describes Vallapora as capital of a 2600 sq km hill state. Sukrala Devi temple having an eight armed stone sculpture of goddess Dei situated at a hilltop is 10 km from Billawar.

Guru Baba ka Tilla : An archeological site near Gajansu in the Marh block. Pre-historic and medieval finds from the 1st to 3rd century B.C have been found at the site, Kushan cups, marble plates and a carved decorated stone medallion.

Ambaran: Archeological site, 28 km from Jammu.

Jammu near the Akhnoor town is on the right bank of River Chinab. Large number of Buddhist terracotta's including a Buddha head of around 700 AD were excavated at the site. In 2001 archeologists found silver caskets, gold and silver leaves, pearls and gold coins dating back to 1st and 4th century AD.

Lakhanpur: The entry point to J&K state, 91 km from Jammu city is in the Kathua district. All the vehicles light and heavy entering into the state are checked at the police check post and have to pay state toll taxes. A short stop over, with a cup of tea at a kiosk is a common scene near the post.

How to Reach : Visitors can hire a car both A/c and non/ac at any nearby taxi stand or through a travel agent available at all market areas. The auto rickshaws and local mini coach service can also be enjoyed at most economical. For the far and distant areas the Deluxe coach services are available from Railway station and Busstand, the Sumo service for these places can also be available in morning hours.

Where to Eat : Vegetarian food at Restaurants and Dhabas right from railway station to Raghunath bazaar can be relished at most economical price and the non-vegetarian meals can be tasted at the Jamia masjid area at Khatai ka Talaab. Some of the restaurants in posh areas serve all type of Mughlai and Wazwan delicacies. Many Vegetarian and Non-vegetarian restaurants are right from the Jewel Chowk upto Residency road. Jewels restaurant and Fast food provides food in most hygienic environs, the revolving restaurant on top of the K.C Hotel can be most romantic food KC food station is also favorite joint for young couples. The Vaisno Bhojnalias around Raghunath bazaar provide food with homely taste. The visitors can also have quick meals at the restaurants and Bhojnalias near railway station.

Where to Stay: Jammu city offers all type of accommodation to the travelers, from luxury hotels to dormitories visitors can find a suitable place within a short distance from the Railway station. Hotels, Guest house and Ashrams are available right from the railway station up to the Bus stand area in Jammu city. Raghunath bazaar, Gandhi Nagar and Jewel chowk are some favorite places for the visitors to stay at in a hotel as these areas have bustling markets in the near vicinity. Hari Niwas palace and Jammu Ashok are on the outskirts of the city.

Facts about Jammu District

(As per Census 2011)

Geographical Area	: 2336 Sq Kms
Population	: 15.27 Lacs
Male Population	: 8.16 Lacs
Female Population	: 7.11 Lacs
Population Growth	: 12.48%
Proportion to	
J&K Population	: 12.16%
Gender Ratio	: 871
Child Gender Ratio	
(0-6Age)	: 795
Population Density	: 596
Persons/Sq Kms	
Rural Population	: 7.68 Lacs
Urban Population	: 7.58 Lacs
SC Population	: 3.25 Lacs
ST Population	: 0.42 Lacs
Literacy Rate	: 83.98%
Male Literacy Rate	: 89.77%
Female Literacy Rate	: 77.41%
Number of Villages	: 771
Number of Blocks	: 8
Number of Panchayats	: 296
Number of Tehsils	: 04

Some Hotels in Jammu

(Courtesy of Jammu, Restaurant & Bar Association and Others)

Hotel Asia, Nehru Market , 2435760
Hotel Jammu Ashok, Opp. Amar mahal Cosmo Residency, Road, 2547561
Hotel Hari Niwas Palace, Palace Road, 2543303
Jewel Hotel & Restaurant, Jewel Chok, 2520801
Hotel Jammu International, 2561580
Hotel Savoy, Residency Road, 2571947
Hotel Basera, Jewel Chowk, 2548714
Hotel Jehangir, Vir Marg
Hotel Premier, Vir Marg, 2561628
Hotel Moti Mahal, 2542507
Hotel Modern (Shakuntala), 2543425
Imperials Hotel, Residency Road
Samrat Hotel, Near Bus Stand, 2548212
Hotel Vivek, Near Bus Stand, 2547545
Hotel Vardhan, Below Gumat, 2573212
Hotel Krishna Plaza, Shahidi Chowk, 2560507
Samrat Hotel, Near Bus Stand
New India Pride, 2560925
Jhelum Resorts, 2470079
Swastik, 2544087
K.C Residency, Residency Road, 2520770-75
Mansar, 2543610
TRG- Bahu Plaza, 2471605
Hotel Premier, Residency Road, 2561628
Hotel Naaz & Restaurant, Vir Marg, 2543836
APSARA, Shahidi Chowk, 2578680
Hotel Taj, Residency Road, 2579560

Hotel Mughal Darbar, Shahidi Chowk, 2570579

Hotel Sawagat, G S S Road, 2540168

Broadway, Below Gumat, 243636

City Centre, Jewel Chowk, 243295

Jagan, Raghunath Bazar, 243243

Parmarth, Raghunath Bazar, 246029

Standard, Shaheedi Chowk, 25455

Rachna, Shalamar Road, 2577163

Suraj Hotel, Below Gumat

Nek hotel, Below Gumat

Hotel Mansar, G S S Road, 2543610

Moti Mahal Hotel, G S s Raod

New Kwaliti Lodge, VirMarg

Shankar Hotel, Railway station

Pooja Lodge, Vir Marg

Rohit Lodge, Jewel Chowk

King Fisher Lodge, Raghunath Bazar

Hotel Rachna & Reastaurant, City Chowk

Hotel Char Chinar, Residency Road

Apsara Lodge & Restaurant, Vir Marg

New Shan Lodge, Vir Marg

City Light Lodge, Jewel Chowk , 2543902

Shakuntala Lodge, Jewel Chowk

Tourist Lodge, Railway Station Jammu

Taj Hotel, Talab Khatikan, Durga Lodge,
Below Gumat

Tourist Reception Centre
(Accommodations), J&K Tourism Development
Corporation, Veer marg, 2579554, 2549065

VaishnoDham, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Ji Board

Saraswati Dham, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Ji
Board

Mata Vaishno Deviji (Katra) **Km 45 Alt 1560 m**

Katra, a small town in the foothills of Trikuta, serves as the base camp to Vaishnodevi Yatris. The shrine is approachable on foot along a 12 km path from Katra. Every year, nearly 7 to 8 million pilgrims visit Mata Vaishnodevi. The shrine has been a beacon of faith and fulfillment to millions of devotees. Popular belief holds that anybody who walks the trail to the goddess' abode rarely returns disappointed. The holy shrine contains the holiest of holy Pindis, manifesting the Mata in three forms - Maha Kali, Maha Lakshmi and Maha Saraswati representing Creative, Preservative and Destructive aspect of Mata. It is said that a man named Sridhar discovered the cave; he lived near Katra and was a devotee of Mata. Sridhar had no children and worshiped little girls. One day Mata appeared in his dream and revealed to him her cave abode, goddess blessed him four sons. Sridhar worshiped at the cave and since then his descendants perform as pandits at the holy cave. It is believed that the Yatra is not complete unless the pilgrim visits Bhairon ka Mandir as well (2.6 km from the main shrine).

Yatris on reaching Katra need to get a Parchi (registration slip) from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) counters near the Bus Stand. Counter No 1 for 1 to 9 persons & counter No 2 for 10 persons and above. Counters are open from 6 am to 11 pm. Pithus, palkiwalas and ponywalas registered with the authorities are available from Katra to Banganga. The rates from Katra to the shrine and back are fixed as per the weight of luggage and yatri. Yatris are advised to check the identities of hired pithu, palkiwala, ponywala and note their card numbers/names in case of any kind of eventuality. (Pithu is a labour who carries the goods, Palkiwala are a set of

men who carry the pilgrims sitting on a cart or a chair and the ponnywalas are the men who own the ponnies). After darshan, one must not miss trying maalish (Body Massage) at Katra. The maalishwala will loosen your muscles using different massage methods and a variety of oils.

For your food taste, Katra is no less than a metro city. The modern Fast Food restaurants fulfil the needs of every yatri-be it Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali, NRI's or foreigners. The food at Dhabas and Restaurants is equally tasteful and reasonable. In obeisance to Mata, the entire Katra town and nearby areas are declared vegetarian and alcohol free. Katra main bazaar is full of Kashmiri handicraft items, all types of dry fruits, bhaints, gift items and other specialities from the region.

Places of Interest

Shivkhori : A major interest for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishnodevi is the side trip to Shivkhoro about 75Km from Katra. A natural 4 ft high Svayambhu lingam in a kilometer long cave. The lingam is bathed by a natural limestone fluid dripping down from cave ceiling. The cave is wider at ends and narrow at the centre that gives it a shape of lord Shivas Damroo. Metallic road leads up-to a place called Ransoo from where the pilgrims have to walk a distance of 3 km up-to cave shrine. Tourist Reception Centre at Ransoo provides dormitory accommodation to pilgrims for the overnight stay; there are some Sarais as well for the stay of pilgrims. During Shivratri, a three day fair is held when devotees from all corners throng the cave shrine. Shivkhori has today become a major attraction in region due to the sincere efforts of the local people, particularly the people from Katra with the immense support of the department of tourism.

Baba Dhansar : Traveling 11 km from Katra towards famous Salal-dam, situated off the Katra-Reasi road, a cool spring gushes out of the mountainside in a thick grove of trees and forms a number of small waterfalls. Next to the spring is a naturally formed Shivling on which the droplets of water fall. Every year a festival is held during Shivratri at Baba Dhansar.

Baba Agar Jitto : 6km from Katra , amidst hills, Agar Jitto is an enchanting spot having numerous natural springs that refreshes visitors . Baba Jitto has been a revolutionary folk hero who campaigned against the feudal system in the area. A huge statue of Baba Agar Jitto and a statue of his datughter Bua Gauri besides him is a prime attraction for the visitors here.

Nav Pindia : Nav Pindiyan ka mandir , is yet another cave shrine situated on the banks of a river, 3 km from Katra on Katra-Reasi road. The nau or nine pindies (images) represent the nine forms of goddess Durga . A short trip to this place has become common among the pilgrims at Katra.

Dera Baba Banda : This gurdwara situated on River Chenab is named after Baba Banda Bairagi who is said to be Guru Govind Singhs favourite saint-soldier. Frescoes and a 48 ft high Nishan Sahib made of Deodar erected by Baba is a main attraction. The Chenab River offers breathtaking environs; the river rafting can also be done at the site.

Reasi fort : Bhingarh fort at Reasi , 40 from Katra , was built by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1817 , which associates this town with historic victory of the maharaja and his most reputed general Zorawar Sing in formation of larger Kingdom of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sihard Baba : 10 km from Reasi near Talwara village this exotic 400 ft

cascading waterfall is a popular picnic spot among locals and the visitors alike. The Pragan Nag temple here is yet another attraction for visitors.

Salal lake : A famous Dam constructed on the Chenab river in Reasi has produced a fabulous lake about 20km long . The picturesque Chenab valley makes a visitor stop for a little longer to enjoy the wonders of nature at this far off destination.

Getting there: A frequent bus service of SRTC, JKTDC and private luxury coaches from Railway station are most economical. Most of the northern State road transport buses like, Haryana roadways, Punjab roadways and Delhi Transport Corp. operate from their respective cities directly to Katra . Many transporters have luxury coaches like Volvo and other Air-conditioned couches operating from different cities right upto Katra. One can also contact a nearest travel agent for a conducted tour. The journey of 45 km from Jammu to Katra is covered generally in 2 hours. Private taxi can also be hired from Main Bus stand area, the railway station or the airport at a fixed price upto Katra.

Where to Eat

The vaishno bhojnalays in and around Katra market provide delicious meals from early morning to late evenings. At the sweet shops one can have a quick breakfast of cholla puri or milk with jelabi. There are some good fast food restaurants like JKTDC Jewels, Hills and New Durga near the bus stand. Most of the hotels have self contained restaurants where all type of Indian and continental meals are provided. Free langars right from Banganga upto the Holy cave are also available for the pilgrims. The bhojnalays enroute provide meals throughout day and night at reasonable rates. The SMVSB restaurant

at the Bhawan is hygienic and economical too.

Where to Stay

At Katra, accommodation is available in A/C and non-A/C luxury hotels right from entry point to Katra via the main road and towards Reasi road. The budget hotels, guest houses, sarais & dharamshalas are available at economical prices in large number. The variety of hotels are located in the Katra market right up to Chintamani Mandir near Banganga. Accommodation is also available around the old bus stand area and on the Kashmir-Tikri road. The SMVDSB yatri niwas and JKTDC hotels and yatri niwas offer rooms of different categories for the visitors. The SMVDSB's well maintained sarais and rest houses on the entire route of the shrine and at the Bhawan should be booked in well advance. Pilgrims are advised to book a room in advance during the peak season which starts from February through October.

Some Hotels & Restaurant in Katra

(Courtesy : Hotel & Restaurant Association of Katra)

Hotel The Vaishno Devi, Jammu Road,
Katra Tel: 01991-233301-2

Hotel Maharaja, Jammu Road, Katra
Tel: 01991-232145

Hotel Katra Continental, Jammu Road,
Tel: 01991-234677

Hotel Asia Vaishno Devi, Jammu Road,
Katra, Tel: 01991-232161

Hotel White Katra, Katra Reasi Road,
Tel: 01991-234634

Hotel Durga Palace, Katra,
Tel: 01991-232437

Hotel Bhawani-d-Paradise, Katra
Tel: 01991-234601

Hotel Kashmir Residency, Katra
Tel: 01991-232920

Hotel Raj Palace, Katra
Tel: 01991-233170

Hotel Sahil, Katra Tel: 01991-232587

Satya Guest House, Katra Tel: 9419164842

Hotel Chinar, Katra Tel: 01991-234409

Shaan Guest House, Katra
Tel: 01991-233165

Hotel Krishna, Main Bazaar, Katra
Tel: 01991-232776

Hotel Vasu, Main Chowk Katra
Tel: 01991-233073

Hotel Shivalik, Kashmir Road, Katra.
Tel: 01991-232287

Hotel Tara Deluxe, Kashmir Road Katra
Tel: 01991-232261

Hotel Jai Maa Inn, Kashmir Rd. Katra
Tel: 01991-232612

Jewel's Restaurant, Katra. Tel: 9419129290

Hotel Damini, Bus Stand Katra
Tel: 01991-233277

Subash Guest House,
Bus Stand Katra
Tel: 01991-232303

Shankar Guest House, Bus Stand Katra.
Tel: 01991-233162

Hotel Sunrise, Bus stand Katra
Tel: 01991- 232208

Hotel Regal, Bus stand Katra
Tel: 01991-233001

Hotel Ashoka, Bus Stand, Katra
Tel: 01991-233291

Hotel Tridev , Katra Tel: 01991-232108

Hotel Rama Palace, Katra
Tel: 01991-232184

Hotel Abhinandan, Ban ganga, Rd. Katra
Tel: 01991-232107

Hotel Sham Palace, Chintamai, Katra

Hotel Country Inn & Suits, Jammu Road, Katra
Cell: 9906060551 - 52

Hotel Basera, Jammu Road
Tel: 01991-232123

Hotel jolly Plaza, Jammu road
Tel: 9419164221

Hotel Devi Grand, Reasi Road
Tel: 01991-234035-36

Hotel K.C Residency, Katra
Tel: 01991-234622

Hotel Ishwar, Katra Tel: 01991-232750

Hotel Surya Palace, Jammu Road Katra
Tel: 1991-232072

Hotel Hari Niwas Palace, Katra
Tel: 01991-233601

Hotel Ayul Regency, Katra
Tel: 01991-234081

Sharn Guest House, Katra
Tel: 9419165731

Hotel Mount View, Katra Tel: 01991-234446

Hotel Ambica, Katra Tel: 01991-232062

Hotel Asia Shripati, Katra
Tel: 01991-233254

Nav Durga Fast Food, Katra

Hotel Kapoor Palace, Main bazar, Katra
Tel: 01991-232902

Hotel Janta, Kashmir Road, Katra
Tel: 01991-232109

Hotel Bandhu Palace, Kashnir road, Katra
Tel: 01991-232199

Hotel City Centre, Kashmir, Rd. Katra.
Tel: 01991-233265

Hotel Gupta Palace, Hospital Road, Katra
Tel: 01991-233978

Hotel Shivam, Bus stand, Katra
Tel: 01991-232202

Hotel Mohindra Palace, Bus stand Katra
Tel: 01991-234619

Swagat Guest House, Chinta mani Rd, Katra
Tel: 01991-232828

Hotel Vivek, Bus stand katra
Tel: 01991-232160

Vijay Guest House, Bus Stand, K atra
Tel: 01991-233975

Hotel Akash Ganga, Bus Stand Katra
Tel: 01991-234230

Hotel Maharani, Banganga, Rd. Katra
Tel: 01991-233193

Hotel Kanchan, Katra Tel: 01991-233070

Hotel Maa, Banganga, Rd. Katra
Tel: 01991-233578

Hotel Mahadev Hills, Katra
Tel: 01991-232448

Tourist Retiring Centre
J&K Tourism Development Corporation,
Bus Stand, Tel. : 232309

Tourist Bungalow,
J&K Tourism Development Corporation,
Ban Ganga Road, Tel. : 232009

Yatri Niwas,
J&K Tourism Development Corporation, Counter
No. 2,
Tel. : 233261

Yatri Niwas,
Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Ji Board,
Counter No.2

Niharika,
Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Ji Board,
Bus Stand
Tel. : 232025, 234053

Laxmi Tour & Travels

Moonlight Travels & Tours 233213

New India Tour & Travels 232258

New Kalika Travels 232542

Pooja Tour & Travels 233471

Rajdhani Tour & Travels 233318

Shiv Ji Tour & Travels 233178

Subhash Amit Tour & Travels 232470

Subhash Travels 232617

The Yatri Travels 232333

Tridev Tour & Travels 233107

Trikuta Travels 232505

Yatrika Tour & Travels 232800.

Important Contacts : STD Code: 01991

Tourist Office: Katra : 232003

JKTDC: 232309, 232009

CEO Shrine Board: 2542980, 232367

Shrine Board: Reservation :
Katra- 232025, 234053,
Bhawan- 282207,

Sanjichat- 232225

Some Travel Agents and Tour Operators in Katra

(Courtesy Travel Agents Association of Katra)

Awadh Travels 232879

Bharat Travels 233332

Chinar Tour & Travels

Damani Travels 233315

Hari Travels 232037

Hills Tour & Travels 233317

Jagdamba Travels 233335

Kesar Tour & Travels 233642

Patnitop

Altitude: 2024 m Km: 112

Perched amidst dense forests at the highest point on Srinagar-Jammu highway, the green carpeted meadows, overlooking Pirpanjal range, Patnitop is most sought after destination in Jammu division. A most popular picnic spot among tourist and locals, this meadow provides an escape from the summer heat to visitors. The nearby area of Padora and Nathatop are favourite excursion spots. Tourist loves to have a horse riding at the Padora meadows, ponies are available at a reasonable charges. The Nag temple, a 15 minutes downhill walk from Padora can be covered on a pony. Spectacular view of Kud valley from Nag temple is quite notable. Vaishnodeviji pilgrims after Holy darshan prefer to visit Patnitop for a day trip or overnight stay. Snow fall during the winter is much awaited by the tourists. The peak season once again arrives in the region once snow covers the meadows of Patnitop. A snow capped mountain in far north reminds every visitor of Kashmir valley. Skiing and sledging on the easier slopes attracts young and old to indulge in the adventure during winter.

Best time to visit : Round the Year.

Places of Interest

Sanasar : Alt :2079 m Km :131

19 km from Patnitop, Sanasar is a cup shaped meadow where one can have a day-trips during Summer. 9 hole golf course and Paragliding are some of the major attractions here. A small lake which actually is named as Sanasar is at middle of the meadow amidst pine trees. 10 km ahead of Sanasar is another meadow of Sankhpal, it is 2½ hours trek through mountains and meadows. JKTDC tourist bungalow and hutments are available at Sanasar during summer.

Best time to visit : April-October.

Kud (Alt 1738 m) A village resort situated 6 km before Patnitop, Kud is famous for Patisa, a sweet. Don't be surprised to see most of the passengers getting off the coach to collect a box of sweets at Kud. The scenic beauty of the Kud valley is most captivating, the hotels and JKTDC tourist bungalow offer economical rooms for the night stay here.

Batote (Alt 1560 m) Overlooking the spectacular Chenab gorge, on Jammu-Srinagar highway, 25 km downhill from Patnitop, Batote offers a complete mix of Dogri and Kashmiri culture. Some travelers choose Batote as a night halt while traveling on the highway.

Sudh Mahadev 42km from Patnitop, near Chenani is the holy place of Sudh Mahadev. This place is the origin of underground stream Devak considered sacred as origin of Ganges which disappears into rocks after a distance. During Sawan (July-August), pilgrims visit in large numbers to worship a Trishul (trident) and mace, which according to belief belongs to Lord Shiva. Gauri Kund near the temples is the spring believed to be 3000 years old where it is believed the goddess Parvati used to bathe here before commencing her daily prayers. The place bears the name after a demon Sudheet whose appearance frightened goddess Parvati, Lord Shiva then pierced his Trishul through the demon, at that time he chanted the Shivas name. On realizing that the demon was Lord Shivas follower, Shiva ordered that Sudheet name should be used before Shiva's 'Mahadev'. For this reason the shivling at this place is called Sudmahadev. Ashram and tourist bungalow are available for the visitors.

Pingla Devi: 20 km from Udhampur, the shrine is situated on a hillock in Pinger village near Ramnagar. The shrine inside cave is in form of pindies which is believed to be connected with a little godly girl or Mata.

Mantalai Temple : Few Km ahead of Sudhmahadev are deodar forests of Mantalai. According to a legend the goddess Parwati and lord Shiva are said have got married here. Shiv temple and the complex of Swami Dhirendra Bhramchari are some attraction. 5km further down is the forest retreat of Naina Devi, a favourite excursion spot of the locals.

Krimchi : 35km from Jammu on the way to Udhampur-Patnitop road, a road leads to Krimchi. Near Pancheri Hills, this site comprising of three old temples reflect Greek (Hellenic) influence. These temples are supposed to have been built in 2nd century B.C, however some sculptures belong to 5th to 7th century AD.

Jhajjar Kotli : 35 km from Jammu on Jammu-Srinagar highway is the riverside picnic spot at Jhajarkotli, it is a favourite among Jammu'ites during summers. JKTDC tourist cafeteria and tourist bungalow adds charm to this beautiful spot.

Kol Kandoli (Nagrota) : 9 km from Jammu the ancient temples at Kol Kandoli is said to be the first darshans of Mata Vaisnodevi Ji when the pilgrimage to the Holy cave was entirely performed on foot from Jammu, the first of the 6 nights used to be at this temple.

How to Reach : Daily bus service from Jammu to Batote or Baderwah starts from Bus stand and nearby stops on highway. Tourist can hire a taxi from Jammu or railway station for day or night trip to Patnitop.

Where to Eat : Most of the private hotels situated right from the highway to Padora valley have well maintained restaurants. JKTDC Tourist Bungalow has a restaurant facing the Pirpanchal range and offers continental and mughlai food at reasonable rates.

Where to Stay : Many good private hotels are available right from the Kud upto main Patnitop and Padora area. JKTDC Hotel & Cottages are located at prime tourist spot where room available for the tourist.

Some Hotels & Restaurants in Patnitop

Vardaan Resort, Patnitop
Hotel Greentop Resort, Patnitop, 287519
Hotel Forest View Resort, Patnitop
Hotel Subash Palace, Patnitop, 287555
Hotel Holiday Inn, Padora Enclave, Patnitop, 287570
Hotel Mount Shivalik, Patnitop, 287507
Oasis Resorts, Patnitop, 288204
Hotel Jaishree, Patnitop
Hotel Jai Skahan, Kud, 2545047
JKTDC Tourist Bungalow, JKTDC Alpine Huts
Tel. : 287550

Important Contacts

STD Code: 01992
Tourist Office: 287503
JKTDC: 287550, 288112
Police Station: 288105
Patnitop Dev. Authority: 288146, 287550

Mansar

62 km from Jammu and 40 km south of Udhampur, Mansar is a mysterious lake deeply connected with Hindu mythology. Parikrama (walk around the lake) of the lake is believed to bring good fortune, particularly for newlyweds who seek the blessing of the Lord of Serpents 'Sheesh Nag'. Crystal clear waters and cool breezes make it a pleasant destination. Boating on the lake and a deer park on the banks are other attractions. fishing in the lake is prohibited. Come Baisakhi (harvest festival), a food festival is organized every year near the lake. People take a holy dip in the lake on special occasions. Surinsar, yet another lake nearby has a small island in the middle with tress. The lotus flowers in the lake make it a delightful sight. The temple of Umapati Mahadev & Narsimha and of Durga are situated in the area.

Legend of Mansar: According to a legend "after conquest of Mahabharata, Arjuna performs Ashwamed Yagge, he releases his horse to see whether any other brave fighter existed who could challenge by stopping his horse. It is said that in the northern India, near present Mansar at place called Khoon, a brave fighter called Babbarwan lived with his mother Aloopi a Nag-kanya. It is believed that Aloopi had married Arjuna when the Pandvas were wandering in the mountains during their Banwas and Babbarwan was their son. Unaware of the reality Babbarwan stops Arjunas horse thus calling for a battle. In the fierce fight he beheads Arjuna, brings his head back as mark of victory to show to his mother. On knowing the reality of being Arjunas son, Babbarwan decides to bring the Nag mandi to bring back Arjuna to life. He shoots an arrow to make tunnel (Surang) to reach to the Core of the earth 'Pataal' where Sheesh Nag lived, the crater made in the earth is today known as Surinsar (Surangsar). Babbarwan fights with Sheesh Nag and gets the Nag mandi along with him, coming out through another tunnel that ended at Mansar (Mandisar). Sheesh Nag chases Babbarwan till he comes out at Mansar where the night turns into a day and that very instance Sheesh Nag turns into a stone at the present Nag Temple.

How to Reach : There is a daily morning local Bus from Jammu Bus stand, hiring a taxi would be more comfortable for this about two hour's journey for the tourists. A taxi can be hired from Katra to Mansar for a 2½ hours trip, the route passes through the Jammu-Udhampur railway track.

Where to Eat : JKTDC pure vegetarian restaurant provides meals with homely taste. The Dhabas near the main market can also be useful for the day meals. To carry your packed meals (Vegetarian) during a trip to Mansar is also recommended.

Where to Stay : JKTDC tourist complex has economical double bed rooms, cottages and dormitories perfectly laid on the banks of the Mansar lake. The Sarais and a guest house in a nearby village could also be used for the night stay.

Important Contacts

STD Code: 1990

Tourist Office: 246123

JKTDC: 246122

Police Station: 246149

Doda

175 km from Jammu city, off the Jammu-Srinagar highway a road near Batote leads to this one of the largest district of the state. Bearing its name after a craftsman called Deeda from Multan, who made metal plates, cooking pots and other utensils. It is believed that Deeda was invited by a King of Kashmir to set up a metal utensil factory. Deeda set up his base in Doda which was then a part of kingdom of Kishtwar.

Badherwah

178 km from Jammu, Doda the main town, with altitude varying from 8000 ft to 15000 ft, has some fascinating spots which are yet to be explored. The natural beauty is as romantic and adventurous as Kashmir. For this reason, Badharwah, 30 km from Doda town, is famous as "Chota Kashmir". Originally called Bhadrakashi which means 'a good place to rest at' or Bhadravaksha 'the happy region'. According to a legend Basak Nag, a snake god fled from Kashmir to Bhadarwahs highest peak 'Kapas Kund' when it was chased by the Garuda the bird that Lord Shiva rode on. Vast meadows and adequate winds make Badharwah an ideal place for paragliding. The famous Mani Mahesh yatra is held in July followed by Kailash yatra in August to a high altitude valley where the Kailash

Lake is situated at an altitude of 4400m. Seoj with its lush meadows and panoramic scenery is a trekker's delight. At Batote on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, one has to cross the Doda Bridge over river Chenab, from where a 50 km metal road leads to Doda town. Sarthal a meadow that remains snow covered for more than six months is bounded by snow clad mountains. Commonly known as Chota Pahalgam Sarthal is truly a shepherds meadow, where the cattle's and sheep's graze during summers. Connected through Bani-Badharwah road. Sartahl is an ideal destination for campers and trekkers. Angling in the Sewa river is as thrilling as in any other trout born streams in Kashmir. Sarthal is approached via Himachal through Dalhousie and also via Basohli-Bani road via Lakhanpur. The permission to visit Sarthal has to be obtained from SDM Badherwah and travel agents assistance highly recommended.

Places of Interest

Mani Mahesh Yatra: Yatra usually starts in August from Baderwah to Mani Mahesh with much fanfare. Mountain trek leads to this revered high altitude lake (4080 m) in the region. Manimahesh signifies the Mani 'Jewel' on Lord Shiva's Crown.

Kailash Yatra: follows Mani Mahesh Yatra, starts with Chari from Gatha in Baderwah which moves on to Vasu ki Nag, Ramtund and then to Kailash Kund. The Yatra takes place in August.

Machail Yatra: Route of the Yatra is Baderwah-Pul Doda-Thatri-Machail. The Yatra started as a family tradition by Thakurs in 1980s and has become a major Yatra in the District. The Yatra culminates in Chandi Mata ki Mandir in Machail.

Naturally Delightful Baderwah

(By Tariq Chawdhary)

Geographically the crown of great India in the northern part of Himalayas is bestowed with the bowl of specific naturalism. Bhaderwah has immense potential for tourism-picturesque mountains, colorful hills with beautiful meadows and snowbound mountains dotted with innumerable scenic spots. Life sustaining crystal clear water of rivers which are nature's gifts with additional beauty of Kailash Dal, Neru River, cascading natural appearances, lush green paddy and maize fields. Ornamental varieties of fruit and flowery-cultured gardens, tulip, lavender, liliun and digitalis purpurea. Dense thick forests of Conifer Deodar with multifarious species of vegetation and springs of pure water makes the beautiful cup-shaped valley of Bhaderwah complete. Ecologically balanced township, pilgrimage Yatras including Kailash Yatra, Machail Yatra, Reoshera Yatra, Nagni Mata Yatra, Ashapati Yatra, Manimahesh Yatra, Majestic monumental views, summer and winter series of fairs, festivals, entertainments, excursion and picnics are worth seeing and experiencing. Bhaderwah is a historically a land of Naga-Culture, many splendors surprises and magic's of Naturalism.

The delightful and fruitful experiences here is a stay in a modest guesthouse which depicts regional Culture, Art and unparallel hospitable inheritance. Bhaderwah has a majestic Jamia Masjid, Chandi Mata, Gupt Ganga, Akash Ganga, Vasuki Nag Mandirs, Neozuki Temple, Dargah Shariefs, Bhaderwah Fort, etc. are outstanding and unique in this part. Relishing the temperaments, soothing the monotonous moods-Snow Skiing, Rock Climbing, Horse Riding, Para Gliding, River Rafting and other tourism activities do coincide with many fairs and festivals at Bhaderwah.

Some Hotels in Doda

Hotel Khans Plaza, Opp Dak Bunglow,
Doda City, 234169
Hotel Tak Residency, Old Bus Stand, Doda, 233601

Important Contacts:

STD Code: 01996

Dy Commissioner (Doda)- 233230, 233231
Police Station Badarwah: 244225, Doda- 233546,
District Hospital- 233465
GPO : City Office : 2542735, 2546086

Kishtwar

230 km from Jammu, Kishtwar is known as land of Sapphire & Saffron. To the east of Batote, it is situated on a plateau above Chenab river, originally called 'Kasthavata', believed to be founded in 10th century AC. Nagin Sheer glacier in the mountains above Kishtwar creates several water falls in the area. Kishtwar is also famous for the Saffron cultivation in some areas. Linked with other parts of state by all weather road, NH 1-B, which remains open throughout the year and is connected with Kashmir Valley by Chatroo-Synthan road, which is being upgraded into National Highway. Kishtwar is also connected to Kashmir and Zanskar valley through the rough treks passing via high altitude passes like Sinthan Pass. District consists of 8 blocks: Kishtwar, Inderwal, Paddar, Marwah, Warwan, Dachan, Nagsani and Drubshall. The muslim saint Sayyid Farid Ud Din who from Baghdad spread Islam in Kishtwar, his shrine is most revered in the town. High Passes on the mountain ranges link Kishtwar with the other parts of state. Synthan pass links Chingaam with Daksum (3784m), Margan pass links Warwan Valley with Naubugh (3585 m). Bhot Kol or Lanwille pass route between Warwan and Zanskar is at a height of 4421 meters. Marwa and Brang are linked by Hukhsar pass (4300m). Paddar side is linked to Umasi La or Bardhar (5340m). Kishtwar town is 1607m, situated between 75.46 Longitude East and 33.19 Latitude North.

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The valley Kishtwar is about 7 to 8 kilometers long and 4 to 5 kilometers wide. 285 km from Srinagar.

Places of Interest

Paddar: More than 100 km away from Kishtwar, Padder valley has the blue sapphire mines at an altitude of 4000 meters, discovered in 1880's, this makes Kishtwar famous for semi precious stones. Originally called Zanskar Pardav, has people of mixed culture from Lahaul, Zanskar and Pahari. Hot springs (Tatta Pani) at Paddar and nearby areas are famous for the medicinal properties.

Shrine of Shah Sahib: Syed Shah Mohammed Fareed-UD-Din (RA), born in 1592 A.D in Bagdad, this revered saint came from Bagdad to India during the reign of Aurangzeb. Commonly known as Shah Sahib, he settled at Kishtwar in 1664 A.D during the reign of Raja Jai Singh. It is said that the saint had the power to stop the earthquakes and give sight to the blind. Shah Sahib played a pivotal role in spreading the message of Islam in the region.

How to Reach : Daily Bus service from Jammu and Batote pass through the meandering roads across the Chenab river into Baderwah and Kishtwar. It is recommended to hire a taxi for the comfortable journey and take travel agents assistance for an all inclusive tour.

Where to Stay : Being upcoming tourist destinations Baderwah and Kishtwar do not have any luxury hotels around, the arrangement for local guest houses or tented accommodation can be made through travel agents in Jammu.

Best time to visit - April - October

Some Hotels

Hotel Grand palace, Kishtwar, 260995

Important Contacts: STD Code: 01995

Dy. Commissioner : 261455, 261146

Police Station: 259396,

Hospital- 259334,

JK Bank- 259310

SBI-259144

Poonch

Poonch district is the western part of the Jammu region, 250 km from Jammu city, ahead of Rajauri, situated near the Indo-pak border. In 6th century Chinese traveller Hieun Tsang travelled to Poonch, he called Poonch a famous place for Graphics, Tea and horses. In 1967 Poonch and Rajauri were divided into two districts. The district has a mixed population Muslims and Hindus who speak Pahari, Kashmiri and Urdu with a slight difference in the dialect.

The Valley of Seven Lakes : Situated 60km east of Poonch, Girgan valley is a famous spot known for the seven lakes in the Pir Panchal region. The mountain range surrounding the valley has some highest peaks of the region. The murmuring stream, number of crystal clear lakes, beautiful meadows and wild flowers create a perfect scene for the pleasure of the visitors.

Girgan has little population of mostly Gujjars, Bakarwals who migrate to the valley during the spring time and return to the warmer surrounding areas in Jammu region during winter. The water of the Nandansar flows through the Alibad Sarai and other lakes flow into the rest of the Poonch region.

According to a legend, a spiritual king in ancient times known as Girgan Dev was ruling the region, he had six sons and one daughter, their names were, Nandan, Chandan, Neel, Sukh, Bhag, Gum and Kali (daughter). It is said that the King ordered his children to select a place for the worship. All his children returned except for Gum, then all of them went to look for Gum. They found him sitting at the site of present Gumsar. Gum the son told his father that he did not want to move from the spot as he wanted to keep the site for himself. Girgan in fury over his sons confrontation embedded his son into the earth and went to see other

places selected by his children. Girgan bestowed his sons and one daughter with a gift of getting converted into beautiful lakes after their death, so that they be live forever in shape of lakes. The lakes named after the children of Girgan are today known as Nandansar, Chandansar, Sukhsar, Baghsar, Akaldakshni, Neelsar, Kotarsar. The Mughal road passes through outer edge of the valley.

The valley of seven lakes is ideal for the tourism development. Trekkers and campers will be charmed by the natural wonders and adventure thrill of the valley.

Places of Interest

Poonch Fort: A magnificent fort, laid by Raja Abdul Razak Khan in 1713 AD and the construction started by Raja Rustum Khan. Some blocks were later added during the Sikh rule when the fort was reshaped to European style.

Mandi: A small village 20 km from Poonch, where the Swami Budha Amarnath temple is situated. The area has most pleasant climate and people speak mostly Kashmiri language.

Dehra Ki Gali: 45 Km from Poonch, the dense forest and the scenic beauty of the place has made it a favourite tourist spot.

Surankote: A picturesque valley situated on the banks of Suran river is surrounded by mountains for which it has been called a mini Pahalgam of Poonch.

Best time to Visit: March to November.

Note: Tourist Information Office at Jammu TRC and Railway station will be the right place to collect more information about Poonch.

Where to Stay

There are just few Rest houses owned by government and some private guest houses in the Poonch town. The home

stays would be the ideal solution for the travelers. Tents can also be used for the stay purpose. Travel agents assistance is highly recommended.

How to Reach

From Jammu railway station and the Jammu city Bus stand, JKSRCTC coaches are available at early morning for the 8 to 10 hours journey of 250 km. private taxis, sumo, tempo traveller and other type of vehicle are available in the morning hours (4 am to 8am).

Important Contacts:

Deputy Commissioner-Tel: 220333,
220297, Police Station - 220225,
Police Control Room- 220258
District Hospital- 220291

Rajouri

--54 Km from Jammu, earlier known as Rajapuri, Rajouri was a part of Poonch district till 1967. With an area of 2630 SqKm district Rajouri is situated in west of Jammu Division, surrounded by the Poonch, Udhampur and Jammu Districts. Rajouri area remained the region of great importance in ancient times. InMahabharta there was a kingdom known as Panchal Desa. The king of this State was Panchal Naresh whose daughter Dropdi was married to Pandvas. The Historians Identify Panchalya Desha as the region in Panchal range of mountains. Rajouri was also a part of this kingdom of Panchal Naresh.

Rajouri, then known as Rajapuri 'the land of Kings' - finds its mention in the travelogue of Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang who visited the town in 632 A.D. and described it as a part of Kashmiri dominion. Still earlier in the Buddhist period it formed a part of Gandharterritory (Afghanistan, Gandhar and Tashkent) and later was included in the domain called Darabhisanga which comprised

the hilly stretch from Poonchto Kashmir. Those days Laharkote in Poonch district and Rajouri had emerged as two powerful states of the area. Rajouri district of J&K is famous for hot water springs and most popular is Tatapani. Tatapani means warm water, this place is about 35 km from district headquarter of Rajouri in tehsil Kalakote which is famous for coalmines.

Some Famous Trekking Routes of Poonch

Poonch to Gulmarg (Kashmir) via Jammia Gali: Poonch-Gaggrian Sawjian - Barshi Nallah - Barnara marg - Jammia Marg-Jammia Gali (15000 ft.) - Gulmarg (Tangmarg). Poonch to Nandishool via Loran (Sultan Pathri)

Poonch to Yusmarg (Kashmir) via Nurpur Gali and Khaara Gali Poonch - Loran - Sultan Pathri - Nurpur Gali - Toshamaidan - Kundlan - Dood Ganga Bridge - Yushmarg.

Poonch to Yusmarg (Kashmir) via Choti gali: Poonch - Behramgala - Chandimarh - Kabar Pathran - Choti gali(14100 ft.) - Kundlan - Yusmarg.

Poonch to Tatakuti via Hill Kaka and Dhara Marg

Poonch to Shopian (Kashmir) via eer ki gali: Poonch - Behramgala Poshiana - Chita Pani - Peer gali(11500 ft.) - Aliabad Sarai - Hierpur - Shupian.

Poonch to Hierpur (Kashmir) via Nandansar lake: Poonch - Behramgala - Girgen gali - Girgen marg - Panjtari marg - Khuooah, Gumsar - Nandan gali - Glacier - Nandansar lake - six other lakes - Jaddi marg - Aliabad - Hierpur.

Poonch to Gulmarg via Chor Gali Poonch - Sawjian - Gali Maidan - Mangiana - Sari - Chor Gali - Gulmarg.

Jammu Lesser known Places

(By V K Sehgal)

Jammu combines in itself the best of modern and old, small and big, spiritual and scenic, where beauty descends from heaven, spirituality enthralls and life becomes more meaningful, provided one goes off the beaten track and discovers the off track marvels of culture & nature, gently and patiently. The view of the Bagh-e-Bahu from the Tawi Bridge, both at day and night, summer and winter, or rains, must rate among the best in the world, coupled with religious sentiments, as it were the majestic Amar Mahal complex lends a royal touch to Jammu. Here again, the view of Tawi and the Trikuta Hills is splendid. A walk along the old markets of the city is a must to get a feel of the place, and so do the wayside food stalls. Dogra culture, cuisine and costumes are making valiant efforts to revive and if you do get a chance do not miss the Dogra music. Jammu is just not all about being a city of Temples only it is also about Forts, Places, Rivers, Lakes, Monuments, and Misty Meadows and last but not the least spirituality.

Chichi Mata: The temple complex devoted to Chichi Mata is 38 kms from Jammu. It is situated on the bank of Basanter river stream. People throng the temple to seek a disease free life as the Devi is remover of diseases. In the local dialect Chichi means the little finger.

Chamblyal: Chamblyal is literally on the Indo Pakistan border, about 42 kms from Jammu off the National Highway while going to Delhi. Every year in June, a mela is held here, which attracts many people. The soil of this place called shaker has miraculous, medicinal value, and water of the well called sherbet is cure for many skin diseases. During the mela period,

sherbet and shaker from the Indian side are sent to the Pakistan side. The area is well-maintained and guarded, by the Border Security Force and people suffering from skin ailments camp here near the shrine site for being cured the shaker and sharbat. It is said that Baba Dilip Singh was beheaded in a family feud but he continued to fight. A Samadhi has been made where the body fell. Another story says that a wounded camel fell here and could not get up but he kept his body moving, and was miraculously cured in a fortnight.

Pir Roshan Shah Wali: During the ruler of Raja Sarvadhare, in 583 AD, a saint or Peer from Arabia came to Jammu. He set up his camp near Gumat, not far from the present day General Bus Stand. The Peer told the Raja that a particular army will invade India but it shall pass through Jammu without attacking it. He is also known as the Nau Gaza Pir-the nine yard Pir. During the rule of Ranbir Singh, who founded the Dharmarth Trust, the tomb 'Mazor' of Roshan Shah Wali was also cemented.

Paired Devta: Most people passing through Nagrota on way to the shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi miss the small sign, giving indication to Paired Devta shrine. This interesting temple is reached after a soft trek of some 3.3 kms, after short drive, and a river crossing by boat, all of which add to the charm and thrill of worshipping at Paired Devta, which is the Kul Devta for many. Here you get a feel of being very far from Jammu, although it is hardly 10 kms. At the shrine, fish is fed meat and flour by the devotees. Paired was the son of Naga King Vaskinaga. It is said that he turned the direction of Tawi River towards Jammu for drinking water and irrigation. Those who cannot go to hills or the coast can get feel of both at Paired Devta, plus, of course, the peace - cum spiritual experience.

Kameshwar Mahadev Temple

Akhnoor: Akhnocr historic city, by side of Chenab river, and closely linked with the Dogra rulers. But its ancient, glorious spiritual past and present is reflected in the Kameshwar Mahadev Temple. The 'three pindies' of the Mahabharata period temple have a story to tell. 30 Kms drive from Jammu, mostly along the river and canal. According to legend, King Babreek was a kind, just ruler, and a strong devotee of Lord Shiva. Pleased with his meditation and tapasaya, Lord Shiva gave him Darshan and granted him boon. But instead of asking anything material the King requested Lord Shiva to take him to Shiv Dham along with him. Lord Shiva informed him that only purified souls could go there, and asked him to change his wish. Babreek asked that there should be no warrior as strong as him and no one should oppose him. This was granted and the Lord gave him his relic and three arrows. Babreek was told by his mother that if he got beheaded in battle, the King should send his body to her who would put him again back to life. On knowing about the Mahabharata battle in Kurushetra, he went there from Kashmir. Babreek approached Lord Krishna, without knowing who he was. Lord Krishna asked him to demonstrate his powers and pierce all the leaves of a peepal tree with one arrow, one leaf fell on the ground, which Lord Krishna concealed under his feet. Th started hovering around Lord Krishna's feet. Babreek requested Lord Krishna to remove his feet to avoid it being pierced by the arrow. This proved his valor before in the battlefield. Lord Krishna told Babreek to seek anything, as he had saved his life, Babreek rejects and insists that he only gives. Lord Krishna then asks him to give his head. Babreek agrees but wishes to see the end of the battle. Lord Krishna then says that his head would be hanged on a tree and that head would be able to see. Babreek asked Lord Krishna

to send his body back to his mother. Lord Krishna agrees but says that on the way it should not be visible to anyone. The body was put on horse-back and it reached the present site of the temple. Seeing this a woman raised an alarm, when more people reached the spot, there was no horse and nobody instead, there were three pindis, representing Babreek's body, with his cut marks, relic of Lord Shiva and the horse. Babreek's family from Kashmir came and tried to dig the pindis out but the pindis sank in soil. In a dreams Babreek informs his relatives not to remove pindis, as he wanted to be at that place.

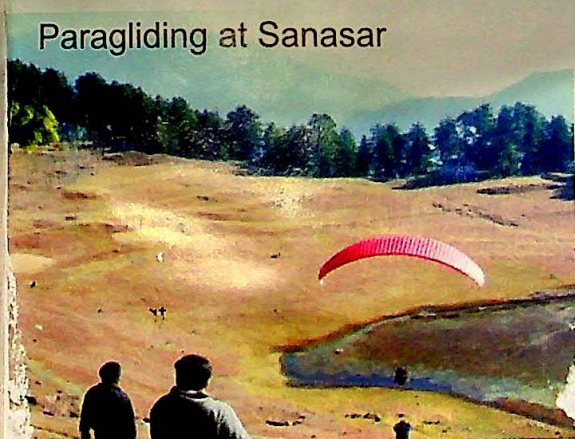
Deva Maa Temple: A diversion of about 3 kms from the Jammu-Katra road leads to Deva Maa, a clam, scenic and beautiful place, with a quaint temple. Most devotees of the Vaishnodevi tend to miss this place, although this is second Darshan, after Kol Kandoli. The Mata spent many years here in the Kalyug, completing her spiritual requirements. Darshan here are supposed to have same significance as at the Bhawan. A short visit to the Deva Maa temple is most spiritual as it sets the whole story of Mata into right perspective after completing her tapasaya, the Mata converted herself into an idol, which is worshipped till today. The priests at the temple narrate the story at Deva Maa. A little distance from the temple is a mango tree planted by the Mata.

"The Scenic And Spiritual Tourism" Jammu Kashmir And Ladakh (V. K. SEHGAL)

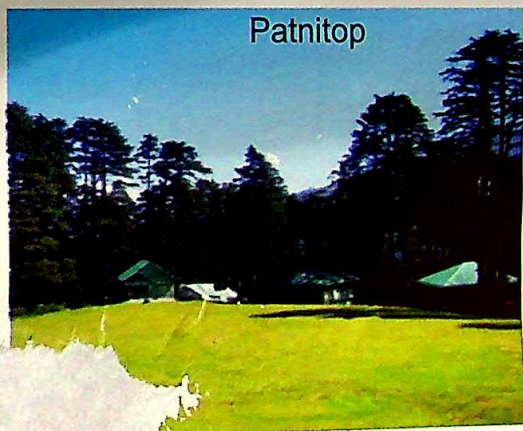
The writing on the wall was quite obvious. "when supreme reality retaliates no one can beat it". spirituality and spiritual tourism along with other vistas of tourism, catching the attention of people at the helm of affairs, for promoting tourism in all three regions of the state of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh as complement-arian



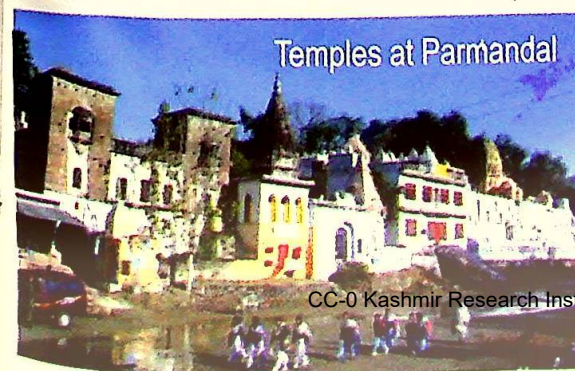
A Spot near Patnitop in winter



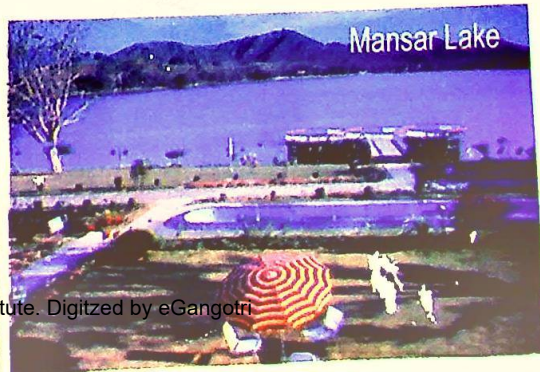
Paragliding at Sanasar



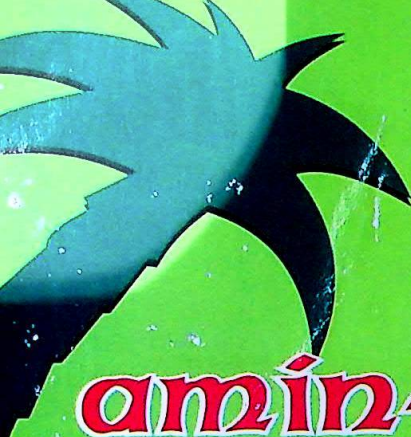
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Temples at Parmandal



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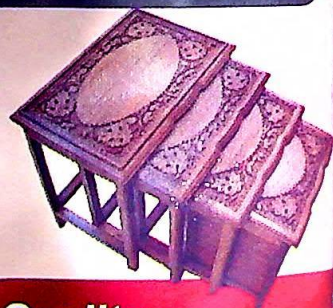
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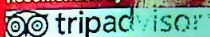
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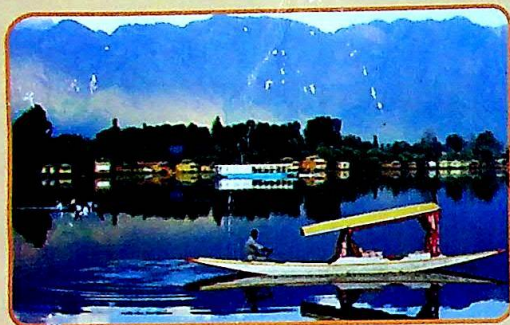
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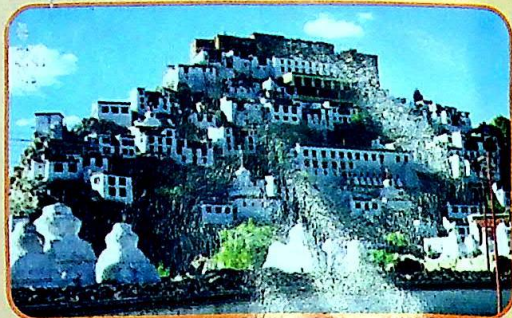
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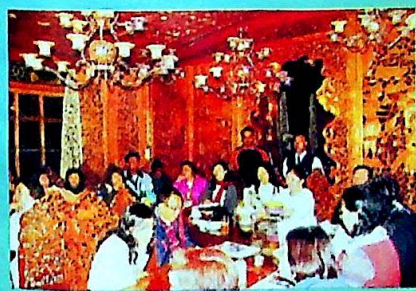
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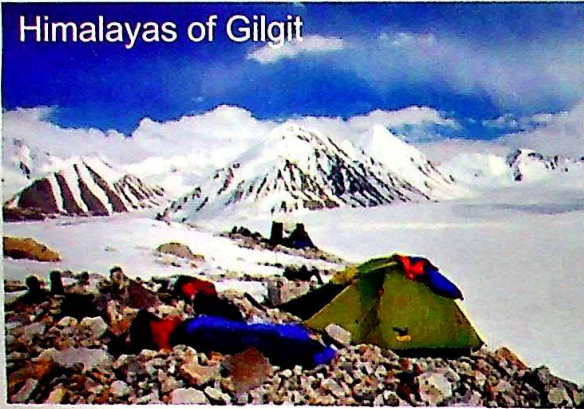
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Saiful Malook Lake, Baltistan (PoK)

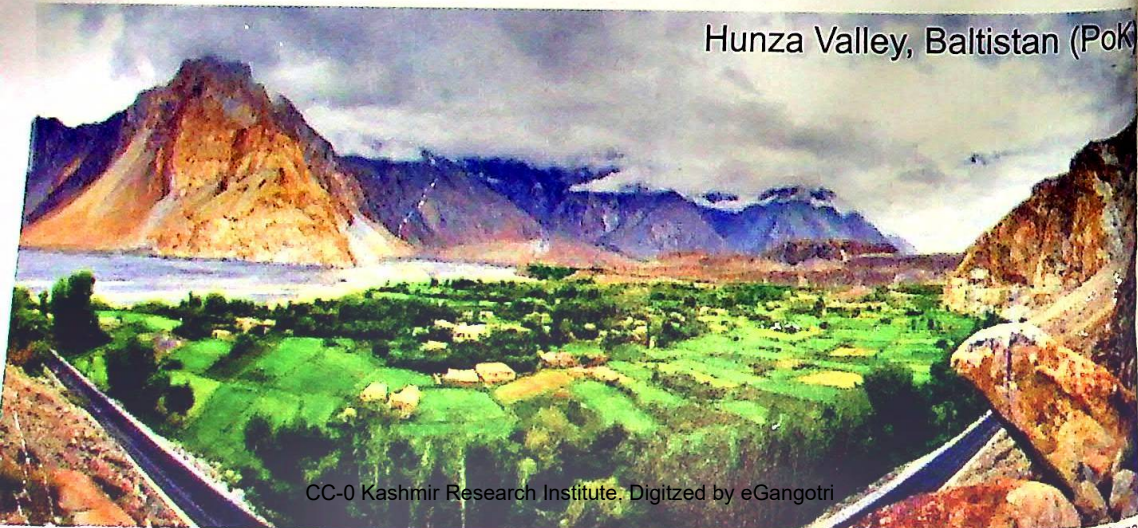


Himalayas of Gilgit



Grapes of Gilgit

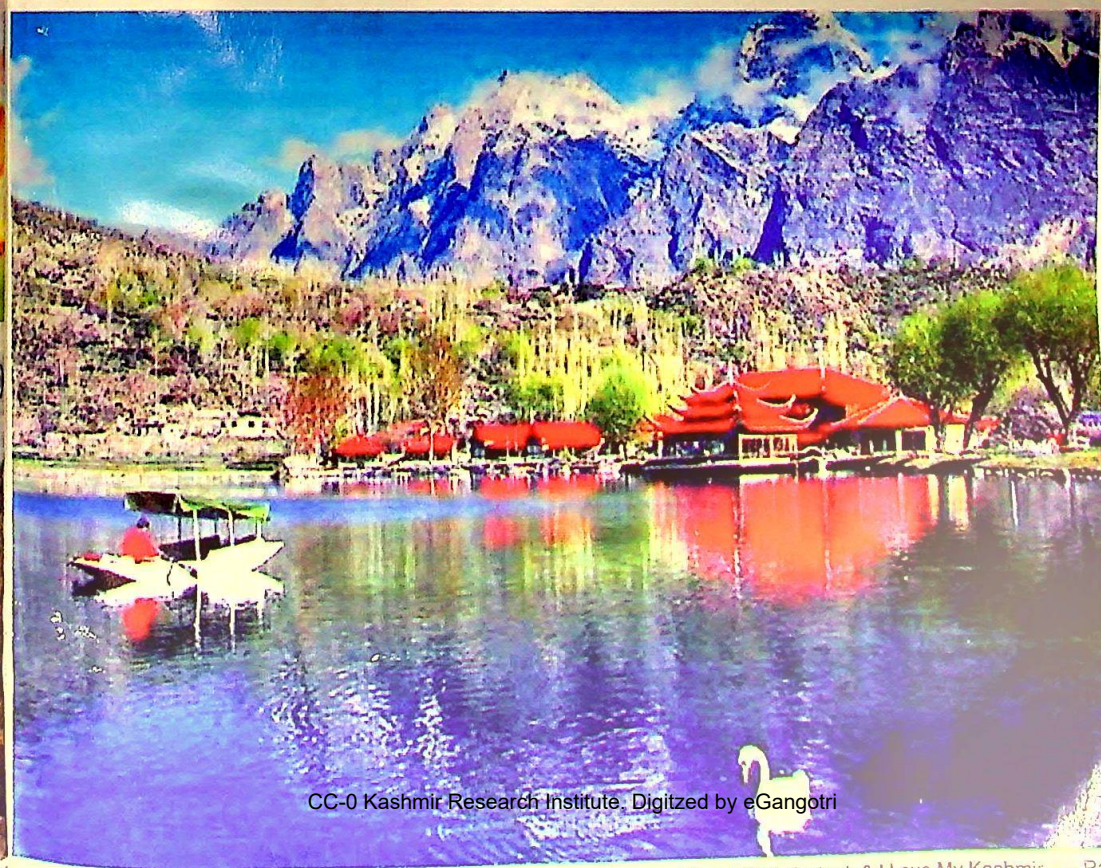
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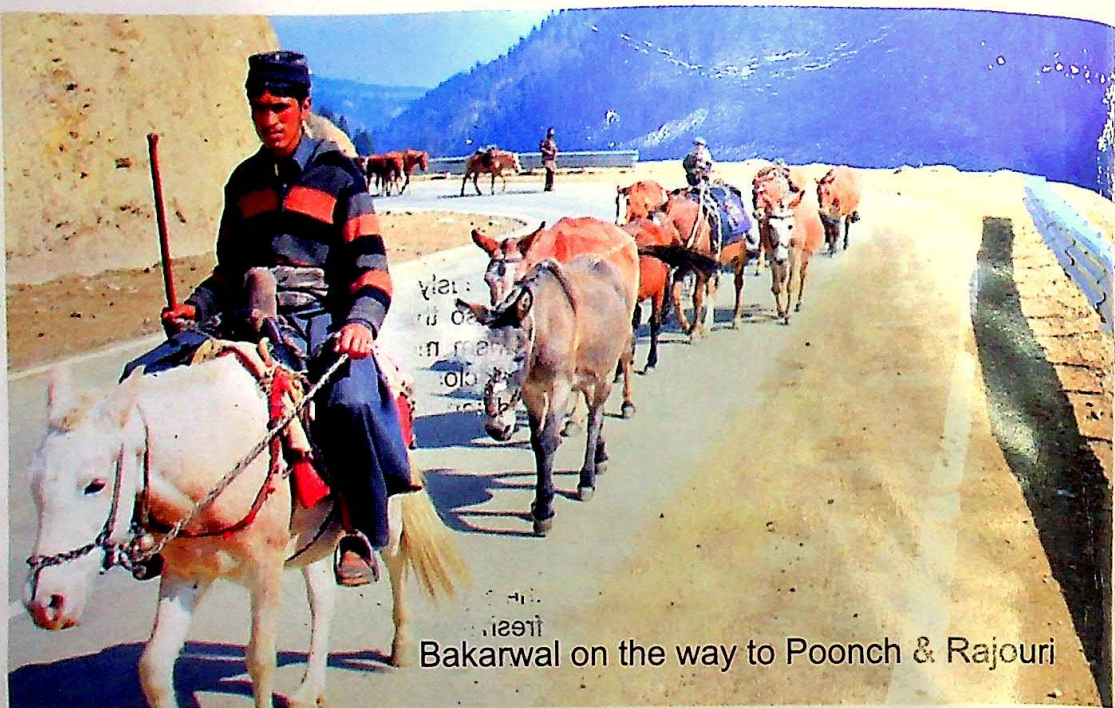




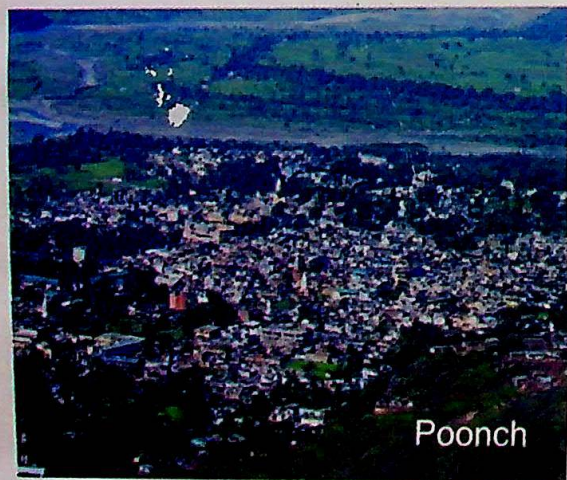
Satpara Lake , Skardu , Gilgit Baltistan (PoK)

Shangrila Lake , Gilgit Baltistan (PoK)

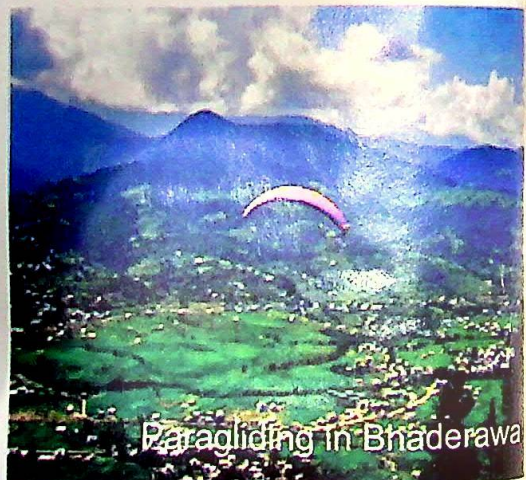




Bakarwal on the way to Poonch & Rajouri



Poonch



Paragliding in Bhaderawa

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Meadows of Bhaderawa



circuits, speaks volumes about some force beyond the control of scientific explanations. Rationally speaking if packaged and promoted professionally the spiritual circuits shall attract large number of visitors seeking peace and solace from all walks of life globally.

The circuits if planned and promoted keeping the comfort level high may prove instrumental in making the visitors even overlook the price tag, which makes it more necessary that the promotional campaign and the implementation on ground, resonate with each other as the target market shall definitely be a serious one. Various circuits besides, some circuits packaged as stress busters covering Shivkhor, Sudh Mahadev, Sehad Baba, Parmandal, Kameshwar Mahadev and Ambran can be initiated immediately which shall not only provide a benchmark but also act as motivators by virtue of offering fresh vistas, of not only pilgrimage & spiritual experiences but also the much required entertainers relating to river, mountain, health, cave, leisure, adventure, culture & heritage, historical, and last but not the least mythological tourism in one go for all three regions of the state, targeting an already existing spin off target market of over 10 million and ever increasing visitors/travellers, visiting the holy shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi year after year. This exercise shall act as a catalyst for the entire mission as one of the nature of program of track one agencies is also to remove apprehensions in the minds of potential travelers to the state be it domestic or international travelers. This can then be clubbed with numerous circuits in the valley of Kashmir and Ladakh covering high altitudes lakes, mountain passes, historical routes, mughal circuits, monasteries, hot water springs, snow leopard sighting & wild life sanctuaries, Buddhist & sufi circuits along with many more jewels of nature beyond the known corridors of Dal Lake,

Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Khardungla, Shey Hemis and Thicksey which are already favorites among travelers.

The department of tourism and the concerned officials now have to act judiciously and more importantly act in time so that this initiative of ministry of tourism meets its appropriate goal and works closely with the stakeholders who in addition to their wisdom should also involve a little bit of heart in their effort. The authorities shall have to understand that concept of selling old wine in new bottle is now the thing of distance past and until and unless all three regions of the state are promoted as one bouquet of flowers, the promotional campaigns shall bear no fruits and the concerned ministry shall have to remain focused and monitor the entire exercise as it is high time that Jammu is projected beyond Mata Vaishnodevi's transit point, Kashmir breaks free from just being branded as the paradise on earth and Ladakh is recognized as a spiritual hub for total relaxation in addition to the existing adventure only circuits. The spiritual circuits are to be accepted and packaged as the will, wish and Last but not the least way of the supreme reality and right kind of people at right place at the right time shall definitely prove instrumental towards the cause of conserving and preserving the belief and practices of responsible and sustainable tourism which shall definitely benefit the local communities, the tourists frequenting the and spiritual Jammu, Kashmir.

The writer is the Founder, Chairman of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Tourism Promotion Council, E-mail: indiabeyondtravelbooks@gmail.com

Art, Craft & Shopping

Jammu is known for the cheapest textile products. Samba, on the Jammu - Pathankot road is famous for block printing. Vegetable dyes are used for block printing on a variety of clothes and bed covers. Phoolkari embroidery is another craft originally from Punjab. This includes flower designs on items like handkerchiefs, table covers, bed spreads and wall hangings. Paintings from Basohli, a village in Kathua, are based on themes like Vaisnavism, Ramayana and the Gita. The history and poetry is presented in the myriad colours of life and landscape of the region. Raghunath Bazaar and Hari Market are famous for traditional Dogri items and jewelry. Kashmiri handicrafts and dry fruits are also available here. Bargaining is a fun filled activity at some places.

Fairs & Festivals

The colourful religious festivals set the right mood for people to get together and perform the righteous duties in traditional way.

Lohri (13 January), also known as Makar Sankranti, is celebrated to herald the onset of Spring. People from every religion join this festival to organize a bonfire and distribute special sweets and nuts. Chajja, a local dance is usually a special feature during the festival.

Baisakhi (13 April), the harvest festival, is celebrated on the first day of Baisakh month of the Vikram calendar.

Bahu Mela (March - April, September-October), this festival is held twice a year at Kali temple in Bahu Fort. People in large number visit the Temple of Goddess Kali inside Bahu Fort to seek Divine blessings. There are all sorts of entertainment and edibles for the kids and all.

Purmandal Mela (February - March), this festival is celebrated on Shivratri, when people celebrate the marriage of Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati.

Jhiri Mela (October - November) is celebrated to commemorate the legend of Baba Jittu at a village called Jhiri, 14 km from Jammu.

Mansar Mela, a 3 day festival is organised every year by J&K Tourism during Baisakhi at Mansar Lake. The festival also provides a platform for promotion of local craftsmanship and cuisine.

Jammu Festival, yet another festival in April, is celebrated to promote the regional culture, craft and cuisine during Baisakhi in Jammu city. A spectacular presentation offers multi arts/multi media performance, to showcase the rich cultural traditions of the region. Art and Craft exhibition, Nukad shows, Hasiya kawi samelan (laughter shows), kite flying and light & sound shows are organized by the people with support of the local authorities.

Navratra Festival : Festival that showcases the religious and cultural heritage celebrated annually during September-October at Katra. The religious processions are organized in the evenings where the Jhankis of different gods and their disciples is taken out by the local people. A tow day festival is full of cultural and musical programs. Festival starts with inauguration ceremony, prayers offered to Goddess Mata Vaishno Devi. Every evening Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board with assistance from state tourism department organizes various cultural shows including famous singing competition in which singers the state and neighboring areas participate to sing songs in the glory of Mata Vaishno Devi, followed by prize distribution. Art, craft & handloom

exhibitions are held during the festival. Wrestling competition is organized during the festival in which wrestlers from northern India.

Dogra Dances

The oldest and full of life dances portray art & tradition of Jammu. Performed by both men & women. The Dogri folk dance expresses the vitality and gallantry heroes of Jammu. It is performed on special occasions like advent of spring, harvest time, wedding or the birth of a male child. Accompanied by music of flute, Shanaee's & drums.

Chajja : Performed on Lohri festival this dance is also called Peacock dance as it also indicates the advent of the spring. Chajja is model of peacock surrounded by other dancers.

Bahngra : Baisakhi the festival of harvest is celebrated with Bhangra dance. a clown and a made up women are important characters of the dance. The drum beater in the middle of dancers makes everyone do bhangra and shout in rhythmic hoi, hoi and bale, bale.

Kud: a dance of higher regions mostly in Badherwah, Kishtwar and Ramnagar. word Kudd means mela (festival), it is performed generally at night around the fire.

Phumian: "To bloom, the dance is connected with male child birth which symbolises a bud. It is performed by the farmers before they eat new grain.

Rasilla : Rasilla represents Ras of Lord Krishna and Gopis. The dancers have two small sticks in hands, which are stroked with the tune of a flute.

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Suggested Itineraries

Tour 1.

04 Nights 05 Days

- Day 01 : Arrive at Jammu Airport, Check into hotel, Evening visit to nearby temples & shrines
- Day 02 : Morning visit Bag-e-Bahu, Hari Palace and Dogra Art gallery
- Day 03 : Day trip to Mansar Lake
- Day 04 : Day trip to Patnitop
- Day 05 : Back Home

Tour 2. Katra

03 Nights 04 Days

- Day 01: Arrive at Jammu Airport, Visit to Katra, check into hotel, Evening to Holy Cave
- Day 02 : Morning back to hotel, full day rest, evening transfer to Patnitop
- Day 03 : Afternoon transfer to Mansar lake
- Day 04 : Back home

Tour 3. Vaishno Devi Ji - Shivkhori Tour 1 03

Nights 04 Days

- Day 01 : Jammu Arrival, transfer to Katra, check into hotel, proceed for Holy Darshans
- Day 02 : Back to Hotel, full day rest, evening trip to Naw Pindiyun ka mandir

Day 03 : Visit Shivkhori and Baba Dansar, evening back to Katra.

Day 04 : Back home

Tour 4. Katra-Shivkhori-Patnitop-Mansar-Jammu

05 Nights 06 Days

- Day 01 : Jammu Arrival, transfer to Katra, check into hotel, proceed for Holy Darshans
- Day 02 : Back to Hotel, full day rest, evening trip to Naw Pindiyun ka mandir.
- Day 03 : Visit Shivkhori, back to Jammu
- Day 04 : Sight to Kud, Nathatop and Sanasari, evening return to Patnitop.
- Day 05 : Sightseeing at Patnitop, Nag temple and Padora area. Afternoon transfer to Mansar lake for night stay.
- Day 06 : Morning transfer to Jammu, evening local sight seeing. Late evening board the train for return journey.

Tour 5. (10 Nights 11 Days)

- Day 01 : Arrival Jammu, visit temples & shrines
- Day 02 : Morning visit Bagh-e-Bahu & Dogra Art gallery, after transfer to Katra, evening to Holy cave
- Day 03 : Back to hotel, full day rest, evening transfer to Patnitop
- Day 04 : Morning visit Nathatop and Sanasar, night at Patnitop
- Day 05 : Morning leave for Pahalgam
- Day 07 : Leave for Srinagar, afternoon Mughal Garden sightseeing
- Day 08 : Visit Yousmarg
- Day 09 : Visit Sonamarg
- Day 10 : Visit Gulmarg
- Day 11 : Return to Jammu

Important Contact and Addresses

J&K Tourism, Tourist Reception Centre,
Jammu : 2548172, 2544527,
Jammu Airport : 2431917, Katra : 232003,
Patnitop: 288148, Kud:288112
Railway station- 2430078

J&K Tourism Development Corporation,
Tourist Reception Centre
Jammu : 2579554, 2549065,
Katra : 232309, 234199

J&KSRTC, TRC, Vir Marg,
Jammu : 2576562, Bus Stand: 2577475, 2543551
Railway Station : 2470062,
Katra : 232166
Delhi : (Tees Hazari) 30965527,
(Kanishka Plaza) 3364581

Kashmir Govt Arts Emporium,
Residency Road : 2542946

Foreigners Regional Registration Office,
Canal Road : 2548377, 2544054
Civil secretariat,
Jammu- Exchange- 2547365-69

Consumer Affairs- 2502608, 2549682

Vaishno Dham (Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board),
Railway Station, Jammu : 2473275.

Saraswati Dham (Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board)
Railway Station, Jammu : 2473270.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Reservation
Office, Katra : 232025, 234053. Bhawan : 8223,
8225.
Shri Amarnath Shrine Board: 2542299, 2503399,
www.shriamarnathjishrine.com

Jammu Chamber of Commerce & Industries-
2462266, 2472255

Divisional Commissioner Jammu- 2544045,
2544665, 2566179

Circuit House : 2505623

Airlines

Indian Airlines, Tourist Reception Centre,
Vir Marg, Jammu (City Office) : 2542735, 2546086.
Airport : 2431433, 2430449

Jet Airways, Hotel KC Residency, Vir Marg, Jammu
(City Office) : 2574312, 2574315,
Airport : 2453999, 2453888

Go Air : Airport ; 2435668

Railway Enquiry :131, 132, 1331, 2470212

Hospitals and Nursing Homes

- S.M.G.S. Hospital
- Shalamar Road, Jammu [J&K] - India
Tel. 0191-2547637/38, 2569669
- Govt. Hospital
- Gandhi Nagar, Jammu [J&K] - India
Tel. 0191-2454698
- Govt. Hospital
- Sarwal, Jammu [J&K] - India
- Govt. Medical College Hospital
Bakshi Nagar, Jammu [J&K] - India
Tel. 0191-2549621, 2549625,
2584290-92
Website: gmcjammu.nic.in
- Chest Diseases Hospital
Bakshi Nagar, Jammu [J&K] - India
Tel. 0191-2548012
- Acharya Sri Chander Medical College &
Hospital Sidhra, Jammu [J&K] - India
Tel. 0191-262251, 262267, 262536-38
- IRC Society Ambulance : 2549413
- Govt. Hospital, Katra,
Near Yatra Counter No. 2
- Ramban Hospital- 01998-266384,
Banihal Hospital- 01998-255021,
Batote- 01998-244549

Banks

- J&K Bank, Zonal Office: 2471020-25,
Residency Road:2574302,
Rail Head: 2470778,
Gandhi Ngagar-2433277,
Bakshi Nagar- 2596085, Janipur-2532322
- State Bank of India, Hari Market- 2471150
- Bank of India, Vir Marg- 2451481
- Allahabad Bank- 2573486
- Central Bank of India, Shalimar Road
- Punjab National Bank,
City Chowk- 2474100
- UCO Bank- 2573270
- Bank of Baroda, Purani Mandi
- HDFC Bank, Bahu Plaza,
Gandhi Nagar- 2471171
- ICICI Bank- 2560522
- Reserve Bank of India- 2470084

Police Station

- Police Control Room, Jammu : 100, 2544581, 2542000-001, 2560401-2
- Police Station: Kathua - 01922-234310, Lakhanpur- 285028, Akhnoor- 01923-252225, Rajauri- 01962- 262518, Ramban- 01998- 266664, Banihal- 01998-255010, Railway St- 2474946
- Traffic Control Room: 2451192,
- SSP National Highway -01998-266686
- General Bus Stand : 2577475
- Punjab Roadways : 2542782
- General Post Office, Pucka Danga, Jammu

Others

Sales Tax: Lakhanpur- 01922-285085, 285024

Dy. Commissioner Ramban : 01998-266789, 266788.

Ramban Hospital : 266384

Batote Hospital : 244549, Banihal Hospital : 255021

Dy. Commissioner Reasi : 01991-245587, 25586

Dy. Commissioner , Rajouri : 01962-262244, 262242.

Dy. Commissioner Udhampur: 01992-270212, 270222

Suggested Itinerary

J&K Explored (Tour 1)

- Day 1 : Srinagar
- Day 2 : Gulmarg
- Day 3 : Srinagar
- Day 4 : Pahalgam
- Day 5 : Yousmarg
- Day 6 : Srinagar
- Day 7 : Sonamarg

- Day 8 : Kargil
- Day 9 : Leh
- Day 10 : Leh
- Day 11 : Leh
- Day 12 : Stock
- Day 13 : Pangong
- Day 14 : Fly to Jammu
- Day 15 : Katra
- Day 16 : Shivkhori
- Day 17 : Patnitop
- Day 18 : Mansar
- Day 19 : Jammu
- Day 20 : Back home

J&K Explored (Tour 2)

- Day 1 ; Leh
- Day 2 : Leh
- Day 3 : Leh
- Day 4 : Pangong
- Day 5 : Stok
- Day 6 : Leh
- Day 7 : Fly to Srinagar
- Day 8 : Gulmarg
- Day 9 : Yusmarg
- Day 10 : Sonamarg
- ay 11 : Srinagar
- Day 12 : Pahalgam
- Day 13 : Katra
- Day 14 : Katra
- Day 15 : Shivkhori
- Day 16 : Patnitop
- Day 17 : Sansar
- Day 18 : Mansar
- Day 19 : Jammu
- Day 20 : Back home

SOME FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT J&K

Himalayas: Himalayas form a natural boundary between India and Tibet. The Trans Himalayas range divides head waters of Sulej from that of the Indus. Western Himalayas (Bara Lacha) is the main chain of network of mountains. Mid Himalays (Pir Panchal) divides the valley of Spiti, Lahol, Kishtawar and Kashmir from Kullu, Punch and Chamba. Outer or Sub-Himalayas stretches through Sukhet and Mandi to westward between Kangra and Chamba where it is called Dhaula Dhar (White mountain). It attains greatest height between Byas and Ravi rivers. The Kailash range runs through Tibet along right bank of Indus. Kailas means 'crystalline or icy' derived from Kelas (crystal) compound of Ke 'water' and las 'to shine'.

Karakoram: The Trans-Tibetan chain forms the boundary of Ladkash, Baltistan, Hunza-Nager and Gilgit on the north. At the Shyok river it is called Kara Koram which means 'Black Mountains' in Turki. Karakoram pass was traversed by the Fa-Hian in A.D 399, he calls the range as 'Tsung-Ling' which means "Onion Mountains".

Mount K2: The second highest mountain in the world and a number of peaks of 25,000 feet and above can be seen from different high regions of the valley. The highest peak in the world is Mount Everest, which is taken to be 29,002 feet above sea-level, and is situated at the back of Nepal. The second highest is the peak K2 situated on the boundary between the Kashmir and Turkestan, and on the main watershed dividing the rivers of India from the rivers of Central Asia. It is 28,250 feet above the sea, and is visible from Haramukh on the northern range of Kashmir. Colonel Montgomerie, when making the survey of Kashmir, discovered K2. It was among a series of

peaks on what is known as the Karakoram range, and each of these he designated by the capital letter K. after Karakoram, and by a number, K1, K2, K3, etc. K2 was discovered by Colonel Montgomerie in 1858. He took the first observation to it from Haramukh, the conspicuous peak on the north side of the valley of Kashmir.

Muztagh-Karakoram Ranges : The Muztagh-Karakoram mountains form northern watershed of Indus, the range consists of more than one main axis. The name Karakoram is appropriated to the eastern part of the system which originates at E. longitude 79° near the Pangong lake. Through this region and over Karakoram pass and the Sasser-lá (17,500 ft.) was the trade route from Yarkand to Leh. In 1898 Dr Bullock Workman and his wife marched along it across the Shyok river, up the valley of Nubra, and over the Sasser-lá to Karakoram pass.

Moorcroft: was the probably the first Englishman to visit Kashmir, in 1823, and had enormous difficulty in obtaining from Ranjit Singh, the ruler of the Punjab, to whom Kashmir was then subject, permission to come to Kashmir. He finally arrived here from the north in the autumn, and had difficulty in obtaining permission to remain there for the winter.

Lalla Rookh: Thomas Moore an Irish poet and musician wrote the "Lalla Rookh" (Tulip Cheek) a series of oriental tales in verse and stories in prose, published in 1817, a most famous poem of the time in Europe. The prose story relates to the journey of Lalla Rookh (imaginary characters), the daughter of emperor Aurangzeb, from Delhi to Kashmir, to be married to a young King of Bucharia. The four tales are narrated during her journey by Feramaroz, Cashmerian poet, with whom she falls in love and who turns out to be the King of

Bucharia himself. The poetry in Lalla Rookh also includes the romantic days of Jehangir and Noor Jehan in Kashmir.

(Excerpts from the poem)

*"Who has not heard of the Vale of Cashmere,
With its roses the brightest that earth ever gave,
Its temples and grottos, and fountains as clear
As the love-lighted eyes that hang over their wave?
Oh! To see it at sunset, - when warm over the lake
Its splendor at parting a summer eve throws,
Like a bride, full of blushes, when lingering to take
A last look of her mirror at night ere she goes!
When the shrines through the foliage are gleaming half
shown,
And each hallows the hour by some rites of its own,
Here the music of prayer from the minaret swells,
Here the Magian his urn, full of perfume is swinging,
And here at the altar, a zone of sweet bells,
Round the waist of some Indian dancer is ringing.
Or, to see it by moonlight -, when mellowly shines
The light over its palaces, gardens and shrines;
When the water fall gleams, like a quick fall of stars,
And the nightingale's hymn from the Isle of Chenars
Is broken by laughs and lights echoes of feet
From the cool, shining walks where the young people
meet."*

Sufism: A spiritual need to get away from the religious dogmas, a mysticism that professes contempt for life and exclusive love of God, originated from Persia. Abu Said of Persia was the first to advise his disciples to devote themselves for meditation and contemplation. These saints wore a woolen garment called 'Suf', thus were known as Sufis. Sufism spread from Persia to Kashmir, where various saints or dervesh's followed the path of Sufism. Lal Ded and Shiekh Noor-ud-Din Noorani RA are most renowned Sufi saints of Kashmir.

Lost Tribe of Isreal: The physical and cultural characteristics of Kashmiris resembles with the Jews, observations have been made by the noted travelers in valley. Sir Francis Young Husband says "here may be seen old patriarchal types, just as we picture to ourselves the israelish heroes of old, some indeed say though I must admit without much authority that these Kashmiris are of the lost tribes of Isreal...and certainly, as I have said, there are real Biblical types to

be seen everywhere in Kashmir." Bernier said that "On entering the kingdom after crossing the Pir-panjal mountains, inhabitants in the frontier villages struck me as resembling Jews." Shah Hamdan, the great muslim saint named the valley as Bagh-i-Sulaiman or the "Garden of Solomon" seemingly in support of the settlement in Kashmir.

Kalidasa: It is believed that during the reign of Huns in 5th century Kalidasa, the great poet of India was born in Kashmir. Kalidasa left his home in Kashmir and travelled throughout India and stayed for a longer time at Ujjain. The affection for his homeland has been observed by the scholars in his writings, paintings and the poetry.

Coinage: According to Cunningham standard coin type of Kashmir remained unchanged from Kanishka in 78 AC to the Muslim conquest in 1339 AC (for 1261 years). The oldest type of coin available at SPS museum is that of Shah Mir (133942 AC) and oldest copper coin is that of Sultan Sikander. The value of coins "Kowri's" was used as monetary token in Kashmir as elsewhere in northern India.

Malika-e-Pukhraj: Renowned classical singer of subcontinent, was born in village at Mirpur, on the banks of the river Akhnoor, 16 miles from Jammu, she spent early years of her life in Jammu and was given the name "Malika" at birth, by 'Majzoob', 'Baba Roti Ram, a spiritualist, in Akhnoor area, she was named Pukhraj by her Aunt. At age of nine, she visited Jammu and performed at coronation ceremony of Maharaja Hari Singh, who got impressed by her voice and appointed her as a court singer in his Darbar.

Gilgit: At an average altitude of 1500m situated on river Gilgit, a part of J&K, presently in the PaK is on the other side of the border near Gurez area. Gilgit is the centre of the trans-Indus territories Gilgit

river joins the Indus. Situated in the Dardistan area, Gilgit is inhabited by the Dards who speak Sheena & Balti language. It lies on the famous silk route on high Himalayan passes which connects Kashgar, Yarkand, Sinkiang and other parts of Russia and China. The route has been used by Alexander the great for his operation into Asia. The famous adventure destinations Hunza valley and Skardu are approachable from Gilgit. Dardistan is surrounded by Karakoram, Hinduksuh and Pamir range. The inhabitants of Dardistan are called Gilchas and Dards, who are believed to be descendants of Aryans.

Silk Route: The oldest and longest trade route known to man is the famous Silk Route, used by the caravans of traders to bring Silk from China to Persia and other markets. The semi-diplomatic and commercial missions on this route started from the eastern shore of Mediterranean across the Middle East, Bactria, Samarkand, India and Central Asia to China. Kashgar was the junction of the routes from Kashmir via Leh. The main trade (export) from Kashmir to Central Asia and parts of China was of Saffron, Kuth (Aromatic costus) and finished shawls. Shawl wool, silk, carpets, rugs, drugs, silver and gold were the chief articles of import to Kashmir.

Chingus: A place in Rajouri district enroute the Mughal Road, Chingus is a Persian word which means 'intestine'. In 1627 AD while travelling in this area from Srinagar towards Agra in a caravan, it is said that Mughal Emperor Jehangir died at a place called Khanpur in his howdah (carrier) near Chingus. His wife Noor Jehan in attempt to hide the reality from the people and the heirs, got a doctor to remove the intestines of the emperor clandestinely which were buried in Khanpur. A fly on the emperor's nose which he obviously could not swat made it clear to the rest in the caravan that

emperor was dead. A Mughal sarai was built around the grave where the intestines were buried and the place got its name as 'Chingus'.

Kathua : District Kothua earlier had ten Rajput kingdoms, each kingdom had at least one fort or palace. These kingdoms now form the part of the district, some of these are- Basohli, Billawar, Hiranagar, Jasrota, Lakhanpur. The Rajputs of this area still have the same warrior like attitude that makes Rajputs proud of their culture and traditions.

The Original Area : Out of total area of the state (2,22,236 sq. km), India has an area of 45.62%, Pakistan controls 35.15% and China occupies 16.9%. Pakistan has given 5180 sq km (2.33% of J&K) of the territory occupied by it in Shaksgam (Ladakh) to China. Pakistan has divided its controlled area into three broad entities: i) so called AJK (Jammu plus the Muzafarabad area/Kishen ganga valley of Kashmir ii) Northern frontier area iii) Shaksgam.

References (used for the Publication)

1. Rajtarangni- A Stein.
2. Kashmir - Sir Walter Lawrence.
3. Kashmir- Sir Francis Young Husband.
4. Travels in Kashmir and the Punjab - Baron Charles Hugel
5. Kashmir - G M Sofi
6. Kashmir and Central Asia - P N K Bamzai.
7. Kashmir through Ages - S R Bakshi
8. Kashmir -the history of Himalayan Valley - Prof. Fidda Hussain
9. Ancient & Medieval Kashmir - Suresh Sharma & S R Bakshi.
10. The Rich Heritage of J&K - Prof. Somnath Wakhlu.
11. A search for the historical Jesus- Prof. Fida Hussain.
12. Ladakh by Alexander-Cunningham
13. Ladakh the Wonderland-Teg Bahadur Kapoor.
14. Jammu - Parvez Deewan
15. A Short History of Jammu Raj- Sukh Dev Singh Charak.
16. History of India-K Antonova, G Bongard-Levin, G Kotovosky.

STD Codes for cities in Jammu & Kashmir

City	Code
Akhnoor	1924
Anantnag	1932
Badgam	1951
Bandipur	1957
Baramulla	1952
Basholi	1921
Bedarwah	1997
Doda	1996
Jammu	191
Kalakot	1964
Kargil	1985
Karnah	1958
Kathua	1922
Kishtwar	1995
Kulgam	1931
Kupwara	1955
Leh	1982
Mahore	1999
Nobra	1980
Nowshera	1960
Nyoma	1981
Padam	1983
Pahalgam	1936
Poonch	1965
Pulwama	1933
Rajouri	1962
Ramban	1998
Ramnagar	1990
Reasi	1991
Samba	1923
Srinagar	194

(for national dialing add '0' before the code)

Some useful website:

www.jktourism.org , www.jktdc.co.in
www.jkbank.net , www.skicc.com
www.jkcc.com , www.jksrtc.com
www.royalspringsgolfcourse.com
www.nigeenclubresorts.com
www.jkforest.com
www.maavaishnodevi.org
www.jkhandicrafts.com
www.jammukashmir.nic.in
www.greaterkashmir.com
www.dailyexcelsior.com
www.kashmirtimes.com
www.risingkashmir.com
www.srinagartimes.com
www.birdsofkashmir.com
www.incredibleindia.org

J&K Tourism Offices

SRINAGAR

Director Tourism (Kashmir), Tourist Reception Centre Srinagar Tel. 0194-2452690-91, Tel/Fax: 0194-2479548 Email: dtk@jktourism.org

JAMMU

Director Tourism (Jammu), Tourist Reception Centre, Vir Marg, Jammu. Tel. 0191-2548172 Tel/Fax: 0191-2548358, 2520409 E-mail: dtj@jktourism.org

LEH

Deputy Director Leh, Tourist Reception Centre, Leh Tel. : 01982-252094, 252297

New Delhi

Room No 14 & 15 Front Wing, Hotel Janpath, Janpath Road, New Delhi-110001 Tel: 011-23744948 Fax 011- 23744947 E-mail: delhioffice@jktourism.org.

Mumbai

25, North Wing, World Trade Centre, Cuffee Parade, Colaba, Tel: 022 22189040. Fax: 022 22186172.

Kolkata

12, Chowringhee, Tel: 033 22285791. Fax: 033 22281950.

Chennai

IIFloor, 36/36-A (67) North Usman Road, Tel/Fax: 044 28340958

Ahmedabad

Airlines House, Lal Darwaza, Tel/Fax: 079 25503551.

Hyderabad

5th Floor, Left Wing, Chandra Vihar Complex, M.J. Road, Tel/Fax: 040 24734806

Tourism Development Authorities

Kashmir

Chief Executive Officer, Pahalgam Development Authority, Pahalgam, Office No. 01936- 243049, 243125

Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority, Gulmarg, Office 01954- 254625

Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority, Sonamarg Office No. 0194- 2417275

Chief Executive Officer, Manasbal Development Authority, Manasbal Office No. 01954- 217541, 217540

Chief Executive Officer,
Kokernag Development Authority, Kokernag
Off. 01932-244155

Chief Executive Officer, Verinag Development
Authority Verinag Off. 01932-291645

Chief Executive Officer, Aharbal Development
Authority, Aharbal.

Chief Executive Officer, Doodpathri Development
Authority, Budgam
Office: 01951- 255417

Chief Executive Officer, Yousmarg Development
Authority,
Yousmarg Off. 01951-2442666

Chief Executive Officer, Doodhe Pathar
Development Authority

Chief Executive Officer, Gurez,
Development Authority

Chief Executive Officer, Bangus
Development Authority

Ladakh

Chief Executive Officer, Leh Development
Authority, Leh. Off.: 01982- 250866, 256405

Chief Executive Officer, Kargil Development
Authority, Kargil Tel. 01985-232137

Chief Executive Officer, Zaskar Development
Authority, Zaskar

Jammu

Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development
Authority, Patnitop Office No. 0192-288146

Chief Executive Officer, Mansar-Surinsar
Development Authority,
Office No. 0191-21707369- 2433534

Chief Executive Officer, Rajouri Development
Authority, Rajouri

Chief Executive Officer, Poonch Development
Authority, Poonch Office No. 01965-222379

Chief Executive Officer,
Bhaderwah Development Authority,
Bhaderwah Office No. 01997-244128

Chief Executive Officer, Kishtwar Development
Authority, Kishtwar Office No. 01995-259638

Chief Executive Officer, Lakhanpur-Sarthal
Development Authority

Foreign Registration Offices

Srinagar : +91-194-2483588
Jammu : +91-191-2542676
Leh (Ladakh) : +91-1982-252200

Haj Houses/Offices

State Haj Committee, J & K, Baitul Hujaj
(Haj House) Bemina, Srinagar - 190 017.

Jammu & Kashmir. 0194-2495367 (SHC)
Fax : 0194- 2495367

Delhi State Haj Committee,

Haj Manzil, Turkmangate, Asaf Ali Road,
New Delhi - 110002

Tel. 011-23230507 (SHC)

Fax : 011-3234041

Maharashtra State Haj Committee

Saboo Siddique Musafirkhana,

Ground Floor, Lokmanya Tilak Marg,
Mumbai - 400 001. Maharashtra
Tel. : 022-22626786 (SHC)
022-23778515 (Off.)

Important Contacts For Travelers - India

India Tourism Offices - India

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'Embassy', 4 Shakespeare Sarani Kolkata-700
071, West Bengal

Tel : 033-2282 1402, 282 1475

Fax: 033-2282 3521

E-mail : indtour6100@dataone.in

Airport Counter: 033-25118299

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R-Block, Kranti Marg Patna-800001
Tel: 0612-6570640 Fax: 0612-2506035
Email: itopat@gmail.com

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Bhubaneswar-751014, Orissa
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Fax: 2432203, Exnt. 23
E-mail: itobbs@ori.nic.in

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Junglighat, P.O. Port Blair- 744103 Andaman &
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INDIA TOURISM MUMBAI (Maharashtra)

123, M Karve Road, Opp. Churchgate,
Mumbai-400 020, Maharashtra
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Fax: 022-2201 4496
E-mail : indiatourism@vsnl.com
Airport Domestic Counter: 022-2615 6920
Airport International Counter: 022-2832 5331

INDIA TOURISM INDORE (Madhya Pradesh)

Office No.301, 3rd Floor, Palika Plaza, Ph.-I,
MTH Compound, Indore- 452 007
Tel: 0731- 4239940, Fax 0731- 4201893
Email: indiatourismindore@gmail.com

INDIA TOURISM PANAJI (Goa)

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Panaji-403001, Goa Tel : 0832-222 3412
Fax: 0832-564 1653
Email: indiatourismgoa@sancharnet.in

**INDIA TOURISM CHENNAI
(Tamil Nadu)**

154, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002, Tamil Nadu
Tel : 044-2846 1459, 2846 0285
Fax: 044-2846 0193
E-mail : indtour@dataone.in
Airport Domestic Counter: 044-2256 0386

INDIA TOURISM BANGALORE (Karnataka)

KFC Building, 48 Church Street,
Bangalore-560 001, Karnataka
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Fax: 080-2558 5417
E-mail : indtour@kar.nic.in

INDIA TOURISM HYDERABAD (Andhra Pradesh)

Netaji Bhawan, II floor, Liberty Road,
Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad-500029,
Andhra Pradesh
Tel : 040- 2326 1360 /3, 23260770
Fax : 040-2326 1362
E-mail : indtourhyd@vsnl.net

INDIA TOURISM KOCHI (Kerala)

Willingdon Island, Kochi-682009, Kerala
Telfax : 0484-2668352 / 266 9125
E-mail : indtourismkochi@sify.com

INDIA TOURISM NEW DELHI

88 Janpath, New Delhi-110 001
Tel : 011-2332 0342, 2332 0005/8
Fax: 011-2332 0109
E-mail : goitodelhi@nic.in
Domestic Airport Counter
Tel : 011-2567 5296
Intl Airport Counter Tel : 011-2569 1171

INDIA TOURISM JAIPUR (Rajasthan)

State Hotel, Khasa Kothi, Jaipur-302001,
Rajasthan Tel/fax : 0141-2372200
E-mail : indtourjpr@raj.nic.in

INDIA TOURISM AGRA (Uttar Pradesh)

191, The Mall Agra 282 001
Tel : 0562-2226378 Telefax : 0562-2226368
E-mail : goitoagr@sancharnet.in

INDIA TOURISM VARANASI (Uttar Pradesh)

15-B, The Mall Varanasi 221002 Uttar Pradesh
Tel/Fax: 0542- 2501784
E-mail : indiatourvns@sify.com

INDIA TOURISM GUWAHATI, (Assam)

3rd Floor Asom Paryatan Bhawan
Nepali Bazar Guwahati-781 008, Assam
Tel : 0361-2737554, Fax: 2341598
E-mail : indtourguwahati@nic.in

**INDIA TOURISM IMPHAL
(Manipur)**

Old Lambulane, Jail Road,
Imphal-795 001, Manipur
Tel/fax : 03852-221131

INDIA TOURISM SHILLONG (Meghalaya)

Tirot Singh Sylem Road, Police Bazar
Shillong-793001, Meghalaya
Tel/fax : 0364-225632
E-mail : indtour@shillong.meg.nic.in

**INDIA TOURISM NAHARLAGUN
(Arunachal Pradesh)**

C-Sector, Barapani Police Point,
Naharlagun-791110,
Arunachal Pradesh
Tel : 0360-2244328

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1270, Avenue of Americas, Suite 1808,
18th Floor, New York 10020 USA.
Phone : +1-212-586-4901/ 4902 /4903,
Fax : +1-212-582-3274, E-mail: ny@itonyc.com,

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Phone: +39-2-8053506.
Fax : +39-2-72021681
E-mail: info@indiatourismmilan.com
director@indiatourismmilan.com

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SVP International Airport
Ahmedabad-380 003 Gujarat, India
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Kolkatta
Netaji Subhas Chander Bose International Airport
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Terminal Manager ITB. 03325119172,
033 2511 6752, 033 3987 4599,
033 3960 9881

Amritsar International Airport
Amritsar - 143101
Phone : 91-183-2592166
Fax : 91-183-2591358

Hyderabad Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
Shamshabad, Ranga Reddy District,
Hyderabad - 501 218, A.P
Phone : +91-40-66764000
Fax : +91-40-24008203
RGIA Toll Free Helpline : 1800-102-2008

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Maharashtra (India)
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Fax : 91-020- 26685599

Varanasi Airport
Varanasi - 221006 Phone : 91-542-622155
Fax : 91-542-622351

Bhubaneswar
Biju Patnaik Airport
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Phone : 91-674-2596300, 91-674-2596322
Fax : 91-674-2596302

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Some Important Facts About India

Location: The Indian peninsula is separated from mainland Asia by the Himalayas. The Country is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal in the east, the Arabian Sea in the west, and the Indian Ocean to the south.

Geographic Coordinates: Lying entirely in the Northern Hemisphere, the Country extends between 8° 4' and 37° 6' latitudes north of the Equator, and 68° 7' and 97° 25' longitudes east of it.

Indian Standard Time: GMT + 05:30

Land area: 1,147,949 sq mi (2,973,190 sq km); total area: 1,269,338 sq mi (3,287,590 sq km)

Border Countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan to the north-west; China, Bhutan and Nepal to the north; Myanmar to the east; and Bangladesh to the east of West Bengal. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea, formed by Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.

Coastline: 7,516.6 km encompassing the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Climate: The climate of India can broadly be classified as a tropical monsoon one. But, in spite of much of the northern part of India lying beyond the tropical zone, the entire country has a tropical climate marked by relatively high temperatures and dry winters. There are

Four seasons:

Winter (December-February):

Summer (March-June)

Monsoon: south-west monsoon season (June-September).

Post monsoon season (Oct.-November).

Terrain: The mainland comprises of four regions, namely the great mountain zone, plains of the Ganga and the Indus, the desert region, and the southern peninsula.

Natural Resources: Coal, iron ore, manganese ore, mica, bauxite, petroleum, titanium ore, chromite, natural gas, magnesite, limestone, arable land, dolomite, barytes, kaolin, gypsum, apatite, phosphorite, steatite, fluorite, etc.

Population (2011 est.): 1,205,073,612 (growth rate: 1.312%);

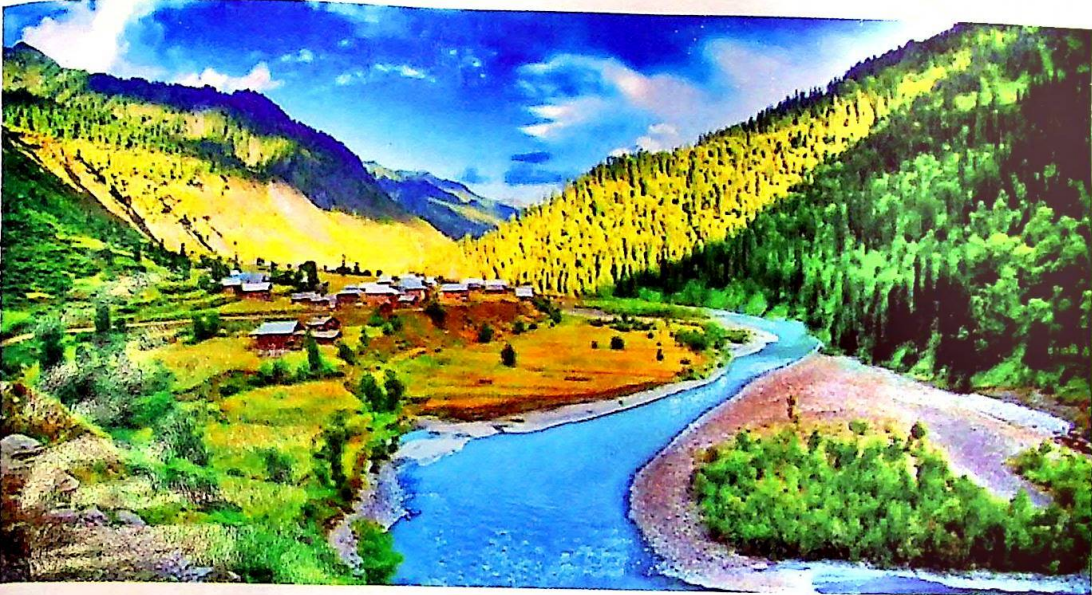
Birth rate: 20.6/1000; Infant mortality rate: 46.07/1000; Life expectancy: 67.14

Religions: Hindus over 800 million adherents (80.5% of the population), was the largest religion in India.

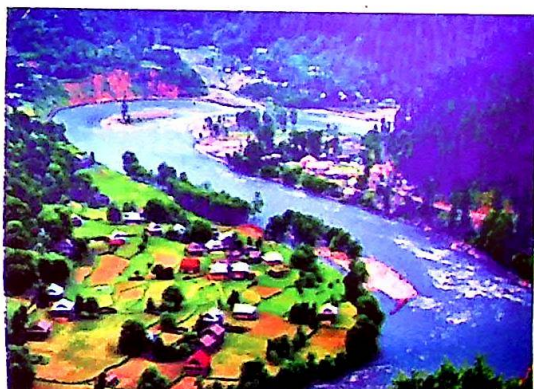
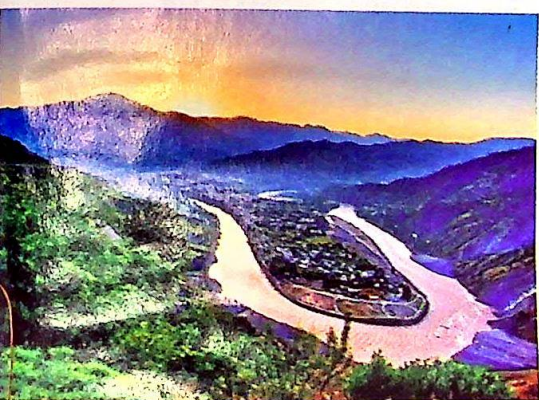
Islam (13.4%), Christianity (2.3%), Sikhism (1.9%), Buddhism (0.8%), Jainism (0.4%), Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Bahá'í Faith. India has the world's largest Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Zoroastrian, and Bahá'í populations, and has the third-largest Muslim population and the largest Muslim population for a non-Muslim majority country.

Languages : There are 22 National Languages have been recognized by the Constitution of India, of which Hindi is the Official Union Language. Besides these, there are 844 different dialects that are practiced in various parts of the Country.

Literacy: Literacy rate in 2011 : 74.04%: Females 65.46%. Males: 82.14%. Kerala is the most literate state with 95.5% literacy; Bihar the least with 67.8%.



Neelam Valley (PoK)



Shounter Lake Neelam Valley (PoK)



Banjosa Lake Rawlakot (PoK)



Children from PoK



Apricots of Neelam

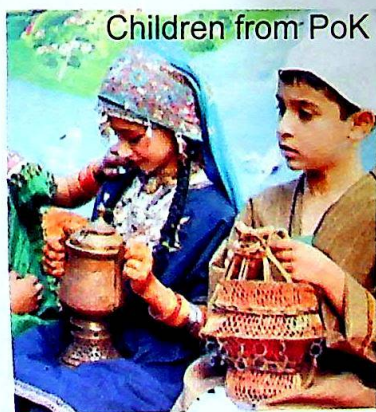
Rathi Gali Lake, Neelam Vally (PoK)



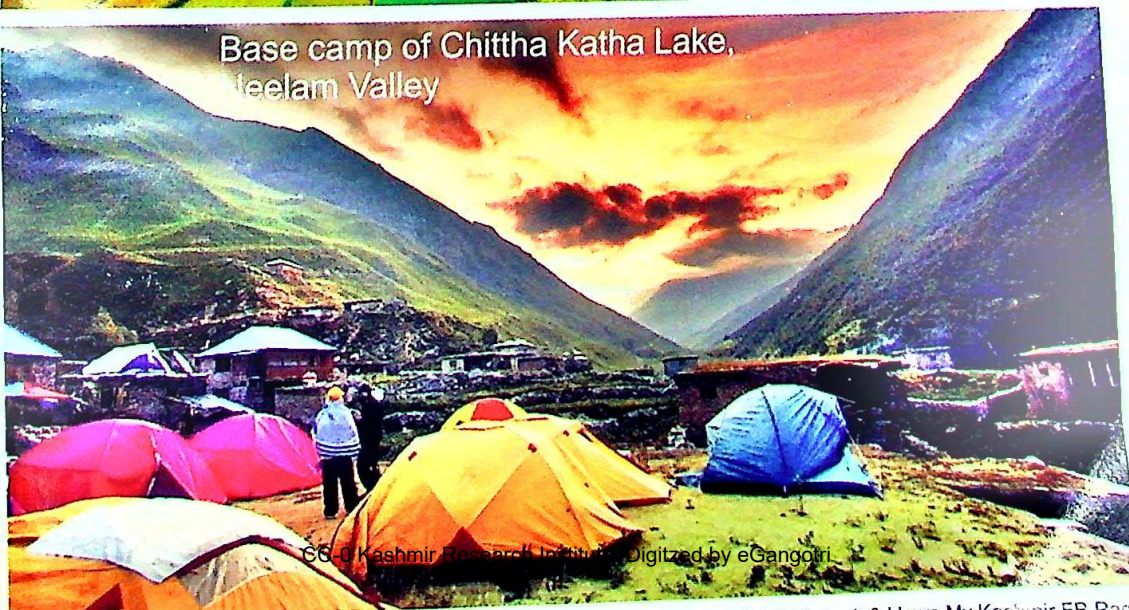
Chittha Katha Lake, Neelam Valley (PoK)



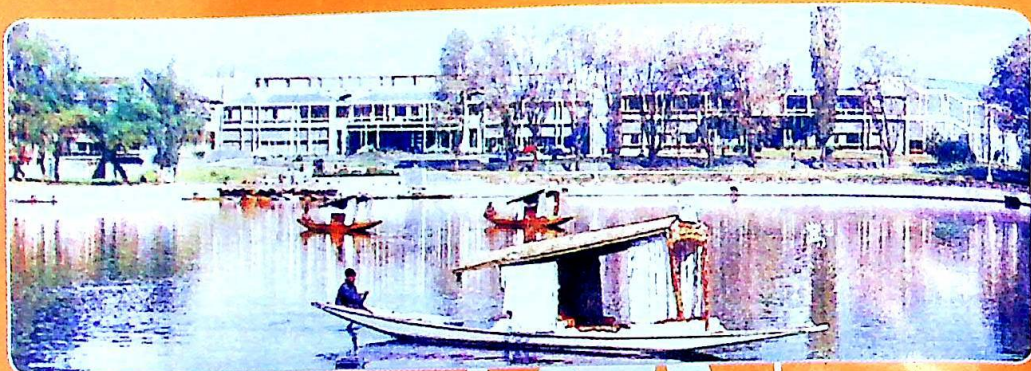
Leepa Valley



Children from PoK

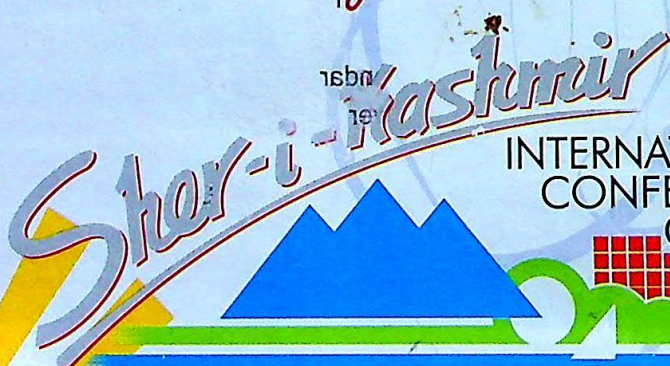


Base camp of Chittha Katha Lake,
Neelam Valley



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Country Name: Republic of India;
Bharat Ganrajya

Government Type: Sovereign
Socialist Democratic Republic with a
Parliamentary system of Government.

Capital: New Delhi

Administrative Divisions: 28 States
and 7 Union Territories.

Independence: 15th August 1947
(From the British Colonial Rule)

Constitution: The Constitution of India
came into force on 26th January 1950.

Legal System: The Constitution of India
is the fountain source of the legal
system in the Country.

Executive Branch: The President of
India is the Head of the State, while the
Prime Minister is the Head of the
Government, and runs office with the
support of the Council of Ministers who
form the Cabinet Ministry.

Legislative Branch: The Indian
Legislature comprises of the Lok Sabha
(House of the People) and the Rajya
Sabha (Council of States) forming both
the Houses of the Parliament.

Judicial Branch: The Supreme Court
of India is the apex body of the Indian
legal system, followed by other High
Courts and subordinate Courts.

Flag Description: The National Flag is
a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron
(kesaria) at the top, white in the middle,
and dark green at the bottom in equal
proportion. At the centre of the white
band is a navy blue wheel, which is a
representation of the Ashoka Chakra at
Sarnath.

Economy: According to the
International Monetary Fund (IMF) as
of 2013, Indian economy is nominally
worth US\$1.758 trillion. It is the
eleventh-largest economy by market
exchange rates, and is, at US\$4.962
trillion, the third-largest by purchasing
power parity, or PPP. With its average
annual GDP growth rate of 5.8% over
the past two decades, and reaching
6.1% during 201112. India is one of the
world's fastest growing economies..
The country ranks 140th in the world in
nominal GDP per capita and 129th in
GDP per capita at PPP.

National Symbols

Flag	: Tricolour
Emblem	: Sarnath Lion Capital
Anthem	: Jana Gana Mana
Song	: Vande Mataram
Celebration	: Saka
Flow	: Lotus
Fruit	: Mango
Tree	: Banyan
Bird	: Indian Pea fowl
Land animal	: Royal Bengal Tiger
Aquatic animal	: River Dolphin
River	: Ganga (Ganges)

ROAD DISTANCE CHART OF J&K

Lakhanpur	Lakhanpur	Road Distance given in Kms																																							
Samba	51	Samba	To convert to miles multiply number given by 0.624																																						
Jammu	91	40	Jammu																																						
Rajauri	253	201	161	Rajauri																																					
Poonch	341	290	250	89	Poonch																																				
Udhampur	153	102	62	223	312	Udhampur																																			
Doda	266	215	175	336	425	113	Doda																																		
Bhaderwah	292	241	201	362	451	139	26	Bhaderwah																																	
Kishtwar	321	270	230	391	480	168	55	81	Kishtwar																																
Batote	211	160	120	281	370	58	55	81	110	Batote																															
Ramban	240	189	149	310	399	87	84	110	139	29	Ramban																														
Banthal	276	225	185	346	435	123	120	146	175	65	36	Banthal																													
Qazigund	313	262	222	383	472	160	157	183	212	102	73	37	Qazigund																												
Anantnag	345	294	234	395	484	172	169	195	224	114	85	49	12	Anantnag																											
Pahalgam	441	390	330	491	580	268	265	291	320	210	181	145	108	36	Pahalgam																										
Srinagar	385	334	294	455	544	232	229	255	284	174	145	109	72	60	96	Srinagar																									
Baramulla	437	386	346	507	569	284	281	307	336	226	197	161	124	112	208	52	Baramulla																								
Guimarg	437	386	346	507	569	284	281	307	336	226	197	161	124	112	208	52	74	Guimarg																							
Kupwara	472	421	381	542	631	319	316	342	371	261	232	196	159	147	243	87	35	109	Kupwara																						
Uri	487	436	396	557	646	334	331	357	386	276	247	211	174	162	258	102	50	124	85	Uri																					
Bandipora	440	389	349	510	599	287	284	310	339	229	200	164	127	115	211	55	77	77	112	127	Bandipora																				
Sonamarg	469	412	378	539	628	316	313	339	368	258	229	193	156	144	240	84	130	130	165	180	133	Sonamarg																			
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Some Highest Mountains of the World

Rank	Mountain	Highest (m)	Highest (ft)	Range	Coordinates	Prominence (m)	Parent Mountain	First ascent	Ascents (Failed attempts) bef. 2004
1	Mount Everest/ Sagarmatha/ Chomolungma	8,848(8)	29,029	Mahalangur Himalaya	27°59'17"N 86°55'31"E	8,848	none	1953	>>145 (121)
2	K2/Oogir/Godwin Austen	8,611	28,251	Baltoro Karakoram	35°52'53"N 76°30'48"E	4,017	Mount Everest	1954	45 (44)
3	Kangchenjunga	8,586	28,169	Kangchenjunga Himalaya	27°42'12"N 88°08'51"E	3,922	Mount Everest	1955	38 (24)
4	Lhotse	8,516	27,940	Mahalangur Himalaya	27°57'42"N 86°55'59"E	610	Mount Everest	1956	26 (26)
5	Makalu	8,485	27,838	Mahalangur Himalaya	27°53'23"N 87°52'0"E	2,386	Mount Everest	1955	45 (52)
6	Cho Oyu	8,188	26,864	Mahalangur Himalaya	28°05'39"N 86°39'39"E	2,340	Mount Everest	1954	79 (28)
7	Dhaulagiri I	8,167	26,795	Dhaulagiri Himalaya	28°41'48"N 83°29'35"E	3,357	K2	1960	51 (39)
8	Manaslu	8,163	26,781	Manaslu Himalaya	28°33'00"N 84°33'35"E	3,092	Cho Oyu	1956	49 (45)
9	Nanga Parbat	8,126	26,660	Nanga Parbat Himalaya	35°14'14"N 74°35'21"E	4,608	Dhaulagiri	1953	52 (67)
10	Annapurna I	8,091	26,545	Annapurna Himalaya	28°35'44"N 83°49'13"E	2,984	Cho Oyu	1950	36 (47)
11	Gasherbrum I/ Hidden Peak/K5	8,080	26,509	Baltoro Karakoram	35°43'28"N 76°41'47"E	2,155	K2	1958	31 (16)
12	Broad Peak/K3	8,051	26,414	Baltoro Karakoram	35°48'38"N 76°34'06"E	1,701	Gasherbrum I	1957	39 (19)
13	Gasherbrum II/K4	8,034	26,362	Baltoro Karakoram	35°45'28"N 76°39'12"E	1,523	Gasherbrum I	1956	54 (12)
14	Shishapangma	8,027	26,335	Jugal Himalaya	28°21'12"N 85°46'43"E	2,897	Cho Oyu	1964	43 (19)
15	Gyachung Kang	7,952	26,089	Mahalangur Himalaya	28°05'53"N 86°44'42"E	700	Cho Oyu	1964	5 (3)

Rank	Mountain	Highest (m)	Highest (ft)	Range	Coordinates	Prominence (m)	Parent Mountain	First ascent	Ascents (Failed attempts) bef. 2004
	Gashtrbrum III	7,946	26,070	Baltoro Karakoram	35°45'33"N 76°38'30"E	355	Gashtrbrum II	1975	2 (2)
16	Annapurna II	7,937	26,040	Annapurna Himalaya	28°32'05"N 84°07'19"E	2,437	Annapurna I	1960	6 (19)
17	Gashtrbrum IV	7,932	26,024	Baltoro Karakoram	35°45'38"N 76°36'58"E	715	Gashtrbrum III	1958	4 (11)
18	Himalchuli	7,893	25,896	Manaslu Himalaya	28°26'12"N 84°38'23"E	1,633	Manaslu	1960	6 (12)
19	Disaghi Sar	7,884	25,866	Hispar Karakoram	36°19'33"N 75°11'16"E	2,525	K2	1960	3 (5)
20	Ngadi Chuli	7,871	25,823	Manaslu Himalaya	28°30'12"N 84°34'00"E	1,020	Manaslu	1970	2 (6)
	Nuptse	7,864	25,801	Mahalangur Himalaya	27°58'03"N 86°53'13"E	319	Lhotse	1961	5 (12)
21	Khunyung Chhish	7,823	25,666	Hispar Karakoram	36°12'19"N 75°12'28"E	1,765	Disaghi Sar	1971	2 (6)
22	Masherbrum/K1	7,821	25,659	Masherbrum Karakoram	35°38'28"N 76°18'21"E	2,457	Gashtrbrum I	1960	4 (9)
23	Nanda Devi	7,816	25,643	Garhwal Himalaya	30°22'33"N 79°58'15"E	3,139	Dhaulagiri	1936	14 (12)
24	Chomo Lonzo	7,804	25,604	Mahalangur Himalaya	27°55'50"N 87°06'28"E	590	Makalu	1954	3 (1)
25	Batura Sar	7,795	25,574	Batura Karakoram	36°30'37"N 74°31'21"E	3,118	Disaghi Sar	1976	4 (6)
26	Kanjut Sar	7,790	25,558	Hispar Karakoram	36°12'20"N 75°25'01"E	1,690	Khunyung Chhish	1959	2 (1)
27	Rakaposhi	7,788	25,551	Rakaposhi-Haramosh Karakoram	36°08'33"N 74°29'22"E	2,818	Khunyung Chhish	1958	8 (13)
28	Namcha Barwa	7,782	25,531	Assam Himalaya	29°37'52"N 95°03'19"E	4,106	Kangchenjunga	1992	1 (2)
29	Kamet	7,756	25,446	Garhwal Himalaya	30°55'12"N 79°35'30"E	2,825	Nanda Devi	1931	23 (14)
30	Dhaulagiri II	7,751	25,430	Dhaulagiri Himalaya	28°45'46"N 83°23'18"E	2,396	Dhaulagiri	1971	4 (11)
31	Saltoro Kangri/K10	7,742	25,400	Saltoro Karakoram	35°23'57"N 76°50'53"E	2,160	Gashtrbrum I	1962	2 (1)
32	Jannu	7,711	25,299	Kangchenjunga Himalaya	27°40'56"N 88°02'40"E	1,036	Kangchenjunga	1962	17 (12)

Rank	Mountain	Highest (m)	Highest (ft)	Range	Coordinates	Prominence (m)	Parent Mountain	First ascent	Ascents (Failed attempts) bef. 2004
33	Trich Mir	7,708	25,289	Hindu Kush	36°15'19"N 71°50'30"E	3,910	Batura Sar	1950	20 (11)
	Molamenqing	7,703	25,272	Langtang Himalaya	28°21'18"N 85°48'35"E	430	Shishapangma	1981	1 (0)
34	Gurta Mandhata	7,694	25,243	Nalakankar Himalaya	30°26'19"N 81°17'48"E	2,788	Dhaulagiri	1985	6 (4)
35	Saser Kangri I/K22	7,672	25,171	Saser Karakoram	34°52'00"N 77°45'09"E	2,304	Gasherbrum I	1973	6 (4)
36	Chogolisa	7,665	25,148	Masherbrum Karakoram	35°36'47"N 76°34'29"E	1,624	Masherbrum	1975	4 (2)
	Dhaulagiri IV	7,661	25,135	Dhaulagiri Himalaya	28°44'09"N 83°18'55"E	469	Dhaulagiri II	1975	2 (10)
37	Kongur Tagh	7,649	25,095	Kongur Shan Kunlun	38°35'36"N 75°18'48"E	3,585	Distaghil Sar	1981	2 (4)
	Dhaulagiri V	7,618	24,993	Dhaulagiri Himalaya	28°44'02"N 83°21'41"E	340	Dhaulagiri IV	1975	2 (3)
38	Shispare	7,611	24,970	Batura Karakoram	36°26'26"N 74°40'51"E	1,240	Batura Sar	1974	3 (1)
39	Trihor	7,577	24,859	Hispar Karakoram	36°17'15"N 75°05'06"E	980	Distaghil Sar	1960	2 (5)
40	Gangkhar Puensum	7,570	24,836	Kula Kangri Himalaya	28°02'50"N 90°27'19"E	2,995	Kangchenjunga	unclimbed	0 (3)
41	Gongga Shan/Minya Konka	7,556	24,790	Daxue Shan	29°35'43"N 101°52'47"E	3,642	Mount Everest	1932	6 (7)
42	Annapurna III	7,555	24,787	Annapurna Himalaya	28°35'06"N 83°59'24"E	703	Annapurna I	1961	10 (17)
43	Muztagh Ala	7,546	24,757	Muztagata Kunlun	38°16'33"N 75°06'58"E	2,735	Kongur Tagh	1956	Many
44	Skyang Kangri	7,545	24,754	Baltoro Karakoram	35°55'35"N 76°34'03"E	1,085	K2	1976	1 (2)
45	Changse	7,543	24,747	Mahalangur Himalaya	28°01'29"N 86°54'51"E	520	Mount Everest	1982	9 (9)
46	Kula Kangri	7,538	24,731	Kula Kangri Himalaya	28°13'37"N 90°36'59"E	1,650	Gangkhar Puensum	1966	3 (2)
47	Kongur Tlube	7,530	24,705	Kongur Shan Kunlun	38°36'57"N 75°11'45"E	840	Kongur Tagh	1956	2 (3)
48	Mamostong Kangri	7,516	24,659	Rimo Karakoram	35°08'31"N 77°34'39"E	1,803	Gasherbrum I	1984	5 (0)

Rank	Mountain	Highest (m)	Highest (ft)	Range	Coordinates	Prominence (m)	Parent Mountain	First ascent	Ascents (Failed attempts) bef. 2004
49	Saser Kangri II E	7,513	24,649	Saser Karakoram	34°48'17"N 77°48'24"E	1,450	Saser Kangri I	2011	0 (0)[10]
50	Ismoil Somoni Peak	7,495	24,590	Pamir (Akademiyi Nauk Range)	38°56'35"N 72°00'57"E	3,402	Muztagh Ata	1933	
51	Saser Kangri III	7,495	24,590	Saser Karakoram	34°50'44"N 77°47'06"E	850	Saser Kangri I	1986	1 (0)
52	Noshag	7,492	24,580	Hindu Kush	36°25'56"N 71°49'43"E	2,024	Trich Mir	1960	33 (3)
53	Pumari Chhish	7,492	24,580	Hispar Karakoram	36°12'41"N 75°15'01"E	890	Khunyang Chhish	1979	1 (2)
54	Pasu Sar	7,476	24,528	Batura Karakoram	36°29'16"N 74°35'16"E	645	Batura Sar	1994	1 (0)
55	Yukshin Gardan Sar	7,469	24,505	Hispar Karakoram	36°15'04"N 75°22'29"E	1,313	Pumari Chhish	1984	4 (1)
56	Teram Kangri I	7,462	24,482	Siachen Karakoram	35°34'48"N 77°04'42"E	1,702	Gasherbrum I	1975	2 (0)
57	Jongsong Peak	7,462	24,482	Kangchenjunga Himalaya	27°52'54"N 88°08'09"E	1,298	Kangchenjunga	1930	2 (3)
58	Malubling	7,458	24,469	Rakaposhi-Haramosh Karakoram	36°00'12"N 74°52'31"E	2,193	Rakaposhi	1971	2 (6)
59	Gangapurna	7,455	24,459	Annapurna Himalaya	28°36'18"N 83°57'49"E	563	Annapurna III	1965	8 (13)
60	Jengish Chokusu/ Tömür/Pk Pobeda	7,439	24,406	Tian Shan	42°02'05"N 80°07'47"E	4,148	Ismail Samani Peak	1938	
61	K12	7,428	24,370	Salto Karakoram	35°17'45"N 77°01'20"E	1,978	Salto Kangri	1974	4 (2)
62	Yangra/Ganesh I	7,422	24,350	Ganesh Himalaya	28°23'29"N 85°07'38"E	2,352	Manaslu	1955	1 (6)
63	Sia Kangri	7,422	24,350	Siachen Karakoram	35°39'48"N 76°45'42"E	640	Gasherbrum I	1934	6 (0)
64	Momhil Sar	7,414	24,324	Hispar Karakoram	36°19'04"N 75°02'11"E	980	Tivor	1964	2 (6)
65	Kabru N	7,412	24,318	Kangchenjunga Himalaya	27°38'02"N 88°07'00"E	780	Kangchenjunga	1994	1 (2)[11]
66	Ski Brum	7,410	24,311	Baltoro Karakoram	35°51'03"N 76°25'43"E	1,152	K2	1957	2 (1)

Rank	Mountain	Highest (m)	Highest (ft)	Range	Coordinates	Prominence (m)	Parent Mountain	First ascent	Ascents (failed attempts) before 2004
67	Haramosh	7,409	24,308	Rakaposhi Karakoram	35°50'24"N 74°53'51"E	2,277	Malubiting	1958	4 (3)
68	Istor-o-Nal	7,403	24,288	Hindu Kush	36°22'32"N 71°53'54"E	1,040	Noshaq	1969	4 (5)
69	Ghent Kangri	7,401	24,281	Saltoro Karakoram	35°31'04"N 76°48'02"E	1,493	Saltoro Kangri	1961	4 (0)
70	Utar Sar	7,388	24,239	Batura Karakoram	36°23'27"N 74°43'00"E	700	Shipare	1996	2 (5)
71	Rimo I	7,385	24,229	Rimo Karakoram	35°21'18"N 77°22'08"E	1,438	Teram Kangri I	1988	1 (3)
72	Churen Himal	7,385	24,229	Dhaulagiri Himalaya	28°44'05"N 83°13'03"E	600	Dhaulagiri IV	1970	3 (0)
73	Teram Kangri III	7,382	24,219	Siachen Karakoram	35°35'59"N 77°02'53"E	520	Teram Kangri I	1979	1 (0)
74	Sherpi Kangri	7,380	24,213	Saltoro Karakoram	35°27'58"N 76°46'53"E	1,000	Ghent Kangri	1976	1 (1)
75	Labuche Kang	7,367	24,170	Labuche Himalaya	28°18'15"N 86°21'03"E	1,957	Cho Oyu	1987	1 (0)
76	Kirat Chuli	7,362	24,153	Kangchenjunga Himalaya	27°47'16"N 88°11'43"E	1,168	Kangchenjunga	1939	1 (6)
	Abi Gamini	7,355	24,131	Garhwal Himalaya	30°55'57"N 79°36'09"E	217	Kamet	1950	17 (2)
77	Gangpai Gosum	7,350	24,114	Mahalangur Himalaya	28°04'24"N 86°36'51"E	500	Cho Oyu	1996	3 (1)
	Gangpai Gosum	7,350	24,114	Kangchenjunga Himalaya	27°44'27"N 88°09'31"E	432	Kangchenjunga	1994	3 (1)
78	Saraghat	7,349	24,111	Hindu Kush	36°32'51"N 72°06'54"E	1,979	Noshaq	1959	2 (3)
79	Jomohari	7,326	24,035	Jomohari Himalaya	27°49'36"N 89°16'04"E	2,077	Gangkhar Puensum	1937	4 (0)
80	Chenlang	7,321	24,019	Mahalangur Himalaya	27°46'30"N 86°58'47"E	1,240	Lhoise	1961	7 (1)
81	Chonglat	7,315	23,999	Baltoro Karakoram	35°54'55"N 76°25'45"E	1,300	Ski Brum	1994	1 (1)
82	Baltoro Kangri	7,312	23,990	Masherbrum Karakoram	35°38'21"N 76°40'24"E	1,200	Chogolisa	1976	1 (0)
83	Siguang Ri	7,309	23,980	Mahalangur Himalaya	28°08'50"N 86°41'06"E	650	Cho Oyu	1989	2 (1)